



PALESTINE POLICE OLD COMRADES' ASSOCIATION

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NEWS LETTER



No. 135

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY

JUNE 1984

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SPECIAL NOTE

To all Branch Secretaries and other contributors:
Material for the September 1984 issue of the News Letter should
be in the hands of the Editor by 5th July, 1984.

WORDS FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY

Further to my remarks in the last issue concerning The Palestine Police Recruiting Film which can now be obtained on Video-Cassette. To date two copies have been sold. Secretaries are reminded to keep their own branch members informed through local news sheets and announcements at branch meetings. I remind readers of the price. Each Video-Cassette is £15 plus postage. Anyone interested, please write to me.

JOHN FOSTER

MORE WORDS FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY

Arrangements for the 1984 Annual Reunion Dinner and Cenotaph Parade have still to be finalised by Central Council, but by way of General Observation we are content with the present level of attendance of 140 at the A.R.D. (Maximum seating is for 150), but the attendance at the Cenotaph Parade on the following day, which in 1981 reached 242 and was the highest ever, largely due to the Memorial Plaque ceremony that took place afterwards at St. Paul's Cathedral, is now dropping and only four times have we ever exceeded 175. We hope the fall-off in numbers can be halted. Thus I appeal to all old comrades who do not usually attend this unique and moving function, particularly those in London. PLEASE turn up on Sunday morning, 7th October at 10.30 a.m. and help keep this magnificent parade going for many more years.

Better still, put the reunion week-end in your diary now. Annual Reunion Dinner 6th October. Cenotaph Parade 7th October. The cost of tickets this year has still to be agreed by Central Council at time of going to press, but will probably settle at £10.00.

JOHN FOSTER

WISDOM FROM THE TREASURER

Rising costs are still eating their way into the funds of the General Account and like any treasurer doing his job, I must continue to point out to Central Council the need to take stock of the significance of this trend. A quick calculation shows that the cost of every issue of this newsletter is roughly £1.00 per quarter, per member. The newsletter levy is still set at only £2.00 per member per year, which covers but half the amount required. Only a small sum is collected through advertising. Doubtless

Central Council will apply themselves to this problem but it is asked meanwhile that if any member feels able to increase his subscription it will help. At the moment many members pay between £5.00 and £10.00 per year and of course this is wonderful. For the moment I am asking members to consider increasing their annual subscription by making donations from time to time to say £2.00, £3.00 or £4.00 over and above what they are at present asked to pay, then it will be a great help towards lowering the deficit in the General Fund. Otherwise future decisions by Central Council will have to consider:

Increasing the newsletter levy

Lowering the quality and size of the newsletter

Dropping the number of issues from four, as it has always been to three or even two issues per year.

SIDNEY JOHNSON

NOTICE

Can any member of the Association use a strong healthy lad on a farm or similar agricultural employment. 21 in September, son of a deceased old comrade and himself an Associate Member. Has experience in managing a pedigree Jersey herd as well as handling sheep. Clean driving licence. Anyone interested please contact Mrs. Joyce Philpott, 3 Shepherds Meadow, Beaford, Winkleigh, Devon.

A JOB WELL DONE

Jack Missen formerly British Constable 238 who is mentioned in an episode on page 212 of A Job Well Done has asked the author to make something quite clear, least it be thought that he had shot an unarmed man. In an interesting letter from his home in Canada, Jack relates how he was searching an Arab who had come through St. Stephens Gate carrying a basket of tomatoes. While in the process of being searched, he ran up a couple of steps and pulled out a revolver and let go at the officer who just had the quickness of mind to duck to the ground. It was then that the young Arab ran up an alleyway and Jack had time to fire his rifle from the hip as the Arab was turning a corner. Then an Arab

Picture on front cover. "Speaks for itself"

Photograph from Dick Cole

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN—ARE YOUR SUBS DUE?



Poster adapted by kind permission of the Imperial War Museum.

Constable arrived and Jack took the revolver from the scene and made for the telephone room inside the wall to speak to Old City Police Station. The Arab constable and the wounded suspect followed. Jack's well aimed bullet had passed down his left forearm and then into his stomach. There was considerable commotion as many hostile Arabs tried to get into the room but help arrived with a tender from the station. Jack quite rightly received a commendation which reads:- "Prompt efficient action when a police patrol was fired on, the arrest of accused and confiscation of a revolver and ammunition. Awarded Special Proficiency with effect from 1.6.1936"

The author of the history is very grateful for these details and does not like to have any dissatisfied customers. Although he was aware of some of the circumstances related above, the whole episode was cut down to a bare few lines in the narrative and might give an unfortunately and indeed opposite impression than was intended. It is a matter of record that Jack's gallantry is recognised in a situation in which he nearly lost his own life and it is regretted that owing to the economy of words that the Arab might seem to have been unarmed. He most certainly was not. The fact that the newspapers got the number wrong seems if anything to have complicated the story because it was Dicky Bird's death that triggered off a nasty time in Palestine.

TED HORNE

HOME NOTES

We are not given to the study of astrological charts. This is not to say we are against such an ancient practice of divination. Indeed there is much to be said for examining the subject more carefully in the light of recent events. For instance: had we "read the stars" for 12th April, we might have been able to predict an event that took place in Kent — that garden of old England, where Dane and Saxon sometimes sat down together, while everywhere else was in a state of war and tumult. Something very important took place that day and it all came about with an interesting and delightful conspiratorial atmosphere. There was something akin to calling the knights together at Camelot. In short C.A.R.(Car) Lawrence went to call on J. M. Rymer Jones and Stacey Barham, David Niven and Micky Hills were there too. Perhaps a monolith should be erected to mark the spot, for future generation to reflect upon. That of course would be an impracticality, beside which Mollie Rymer Jones would not care for such an edifice in the middle of her drawing room. Two reports arrived on our desk from what can only be considered as reliable sources. One from Micky Hills which succinctly stated in the fashion of the old station

diaries in Palestine. "David Niven picked me up last week at Gillingham to meet:- Rymer, Stacey Barham, Car Lawrence for lunch at the Chequers in High Halden. Niven (58), Hills (66), Barham (74), Lawrence (78) and Rymer (86). He called us infants. Glorious time". The second report came from Rymer himself and is more in the style of a chatty letter to his High Commissioner. "Last Thursday I had a small reunion here with Claude (Car) Lawrence, Stacey Barham, neither of whom I had met for maybe thirty years. Further to grace the board, I had David Niven and Micky Hills. We had lunch at the Chequers then joined Mollie at home for tea. Such a blend of Errol Flynn, Douglas Fairbanks and James Bond." Rymer then spent some ink on the sporting prowess of the Lawrence family in general which such a modest chap as 'Car' would not thank us for broadcasting. But it was a happy day by all accounts and we hope the Famous Five will look back upon it all with pleasure. It just goes to show what really goes on in the English countryside if you keep your ears to the ground. Or our gazes in the teacups, but now we are back to astrology.

A funny thing happened to G. J. (Graham) Mountain and his wife. They live at 'Jebels' (About the best name they could have chosen for their house), 2 Sunninghill Close, Hangleton, Hove, East Sussex BN3 8JD. They have been married for 36 years and have no family, so that they were surprised to read on page 77 of the last issue that they had a son. Moreover one who had joined the association as an Associate Member. Readers must agree that this would be news likely to startle anyone, let alone the unflappable 'Jebelein' (Another cunning ploy for linguists). A court martial among those responsible for knocking the newsletter together has failed to reveal just how our new member — A. Mountain Esq. — got his particulars transposed in this way. But it has now been unscrambled. Alistair Mountain is a very welcome new Donor Member and is a friend of John Leggett and has attended many of our functions. In short he likes us. But one can picture the two sets of raised eyebrows in Graham Mountain's household. In Palestine fassed was caused for less than this.

In the last issue, Onbashi's article about force nicknames attracted a certain amount of interesting correspondence, which to some extent was predicted. V.H.D. (Junior) Cannings got in first when he informed us that his own appellation was bestowed upon him by Catlin of force soccer and cricket fame as he was then the youngest man in the force. Catlin was another 'Crash', presumably for 'crashing them in' while playing as centre forward. Noisy Reeves earned his nickname because it was so hard to get a word out of him. In the course of the same letter Vic Cannings goes on to mention that he retired from his job at Eton College at the end of March, when another former Hampshire County player, John Rice, took over as college coach. Also he wishes to utilise these pages to express his sympathy to Frank Ormsby in

Australia and wish him a speedy recovery and in particular to thank him and all others in Sydney for looking after his nephew at the time he was on an exchange teacher scheme. Finally he wishes George Washington's wife a speedy return to health. Vic and George shared a room together in the old armourer's billet in Meashearim. W. (Mac) McKeon, 117 Coach Road Estate, Usworth, Washington, Tyne and Wear wrote to tell us about 'Kutch' Nunn's nickname, something that has mystified many of us. Mac served in India for many years and points out that Kutch is the Urdu word for None. Hence anyone called Nunn was nicknamed 'Kutch' and quite right too, we daresay. We learn a little more everyday and must thank Mac for this piece of wisdom. On the same theme, Robin (Matey) Martin of Abbotfield, Bennetts Lane, Bisterne Close, Burley, Hampshire BH24 4AT, has mentioned the probable reason why Adrian Hawley has been nicknamed 'Slooge'. There was once another Hawley (three others as a matter of fact — Ed), who was a tender driver in Gaza District. On one occasion he was sent down to the desert region to take supplies to Asluj, a well established camel post. After a couple of days driving all over the place, he returned with the irate question "Where is this bloody place Asluj?" and he soon became 'Slooge' Hawley. Later he left the force and joined the RAF and Adrian Hawley acquired the name. Robin then adds that his own name 'Matey' was acquired from his horse of that name. His wife, Elsie, thinks it suits him admirably.

We do not usually mention details of those to whom we have been able to assist with pension enquiries but W. R. (Walter) Newbert, 18 Loxwood Avenue, Church Crookham, Aldershot, Hampshire GU13 0NS has asked us to broadcast the successful outcome of a particular pensions application from him as it may assist others who find themselves in a similar situation. Briefly, Walter asked the Ministry of Defence (Army Pensions Office — Glasgow) if his P.P. service could be added to his army service for pensionable purposes. After some initial reactions, and in due process of time (A long time) the paying authority was ordered by the M.O.D. people to include his P.P. service. Although he did not join the force until January 1945, the actual increase was back dated to 1973 so that what might have been but a modest upward trend also turned into a little nest egg. As Walter feels he would not have heard of the possibilities of making such application but through the association, he feels that membership has brought an immense dividend in both senses of the word. We in return are grateful to him for his generous contribution to the Benevolent Association.

Norman Benn (former B/Const 2820) of March Farm, Borders Lane, Etchingam, Sussex TN19 7AE was moved to write on 13th March because his interest was stirred on page 8 of the last issue when he noted Mike Kelly's recollection that 'D' Squad went

through the Depot in 1938. Instead Norman is of the opinion it should read 1939. At the time he was a member of 'A' Squad which sailed from London on 17th March 1939 (St. Patrick's Day?). The first batch to be recruited on a three year contract. It had about 32 members and included Fred Barty and Nigel Hall, later to be British Sergeant 2827. We do not wish to enter into any correspondence as who is right about the date. Probably it does not matter after all these years. The main thing is the memories that are conjured up. These are treasures of the greatest importance.

Eric (Winnie) Sharp of 7/1 Ireland Street, Burwood, Victoria 3125 Australia on the other hand wrote with an interesting account of a recent visit to Israel made by he and his wife in 1983. He has an unpleasant impression of the air pollution in Tel Aviv caused by the heavy traffic. They visited a new West Bank settlement at a place called Ariel just to the east of Salfit in Samaria and was struck by the absence of olive trees. He contributes what can only be described as a memorabilic yarn elsewhere in this issue and we are grateful for such an interesting letter. Derek A. F. Sayer (former B/Sgt 1785) of 2 Staplow Court, Penenden Heath, Maidstone, Kent ME14 2VB was impressed with the way we tracked him down and was easily persuaded to rejoin the association. His three and half years with the PP was spent at Jenin (PMF), Mount Scopus, Affuleh (as B/Const 'I') and six months at Nazareth, then Safed as Station Sergeant there and finally to Salha on the frontier. On returning to the U.K. he tried the Kent Constabulary for a little while but for the last 34 years he has worked for Rowntree Mackintosh and owing to the success of their products his girth is not very slim. (See Tracers—Ed). Another to be stirred by last quarter's newsletter is J. N. (John) Price, 16 Cornewall Street, Hereford HR4 0HF who enjoyed Duncan McNeil's reference to Safed and the folks there. He points out that he arrived at Jenin late in the day. May 1947 in fact and was soon posted to Safed, little knowing how lucky he was. He well recalls Stacey Barham, Inspector Stevens and a Sergeant Morrison whose Arabic was that of a bubbling brook. Then came Sa Sa where Sgt. Patterson was in command and Alexander was there too before going into rubber in Malaya. Ellis, Van de Pol, driver Malone were others. Nebi Yusha with Sergeant Scarlett. Ian Lovie, a sort of legend in Malaya as well as Drake were two other frontier characters in his day. He signs himself B/C 639 (Dead man's number) and went on to do 7 years in Malaya, a year in Egypt with 'Crash' Holloway, Laurie Henfrey and Ian Higgs before retiring to Hereford. One might well ask, How can one live in Hereford after all that. The answer is, Most of us yearn for the Herefords of this world but few of us get to it. Altogether a nice letter and we hope the memory brings pleasure to others.

We have to welcome two new members to our family, namely, former B/Sergeant 526, G. Murphy (Wiltshire) and former B/Con-

stable 882, N. H. Kennedy (Ayresshire) and there is the promise of some more new members in the pipe-line, as they say. As it is, membership numbers 5079 and 5080 reflect considerable credit upon the association and its ability to recruit something like half the potential membership of 10,000 men who passed through the ranks of the British Gendermerie and the British Section and senior British Officers of the force in the 28 years of its existence. We know there are others in almost every corner of the country, so lets try and get some of them in. In addition, seven have rejoined our ranks, although sadly, one of this number rejoined just in time for us to publish his obituary notice in this issue.

R. A. (Bob) Weaver of 4/6 Old Abbey Gardens, Metchley Lane, Harborne, Birmingham, West Midlands B17 0JS had an interesting story to relate, which we feel is worth publishing here. Bob spent many years with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and goes on to say:- "Going home to my flat in Belgrade, a man came up to me and asked "Do you speak Arabic?" Quite naturally I said "Yes, What help can I give you?" He cried with relief and said he was on his way home from Germany and had got off the train for cigarettes and then the train pulled out. All that he had was still on the train. I fixed him up with the Syrian Embassy and took him for coffee (which is Turkish by the way) and we conversed. He then said "I know where you come from. From EL Quds. You are a Qudsi." I shook him too because from his Arabic, I was able to say "And I know where you come from — You are a Urdani from Sharq el Urdun." or East of Jordan etc." This is a rather nice story that appeals to the editor who 'thousands' of years ago was a youngish constable in the middle of London and while in Oxford Street one day, a Londoner came up and said "Excuse me Guv! there's a bloke round the corner wiv a blanket on his 'ead and he's blinking loorst." he then disappeared but as I rounded the corner into Regents Street, I saw a lance corporal of the Arab Legion Pipe Band, hopelessly bewildered and confused and surrounded by a crowd of bystanders from whom he could not understand a word of English. I introduced myself and his face lit up at the exquisite sound of the language of the Prophet. At the time the Pipe Band was appearing in the Royal Tournament at Olympia and they were billited at Woolwich. I was able to place him on a Number One bus with written directions on how to progress onwards to Woolwich. I did not know at the time that a newspaper reporter was in the crowd and next day I was a prominent report on the wonders of the London Police. Even a 'benighted soul from the desert can be put right by a London Bobby in his own language. One never knows when another 'lingo' can help, be it Belgrade or London.

Bob Rowberry's article in the last issue about some of his horses in Palestine, brought some life into former members of the 'Sawari' and one or two references have been made in correspon-

dence. The most positive of these comes from the neat pen of Robert Elliott of 32 Jerusalem Street, Belfast BT7 (Can there ever be a better address for a former PP? — Ed). He thinks the grey horse that Bob refers to in his article came from the MPSF and was called Pegasus. It was a horse used for school purposes and formerly belonged to a sergeant Martin, an instructor at the school. Well there we go. Does this ring a bell, Bob Rowberry? and is the sergeant Martin, who we think it might be? If so, does it ring a bell with him too.

It was nice to hear from Joe Dewsnap, 27 Edward Street, Canning Town, London E16 4DW who starts his letter by regretting that he has not visited the Cardinal very regularly. Then goes on to explain that he has been on Sick Parade for some time with blood pressure progressing to Angina. To his credit he has managed to attend the Cenotaph Parade every year in spite of these tribulations. Then in January he suffered a heart attack but is now recovering and is full of pills (and no alcohol chaps). He now hopes that by the time this newsletter arrives on your doormats, that he will soon be heading for a two to three month visit to Australia to visit his daughter who lives at 21 Shirley Street, Red Bank, Queensland 4300 (He is due there at the end of June). We sent Joe a list of PP Queenslanders but do not ourselves have the faintest idea where Red Bank is, so we do not know his likely neighbours. He vaguely remembers Frank Ormsby and Ian Lovie. He and Ian joined the force together, he from the SAS and Ian from the Liverpool Scottish or Gordon Highlanders or some such similar regiment. Kafr Vitkin did the rest but then Joe went north to Haifa. Australia is a biggish sort of place, we remind ourselves, and Queensland is already big within it, so we cannot guess upon the chances of these three meeting.

We have heard that S. G. (Paddy) Thompson and his wife from 11 Buntine Road, Wembley Downs, Western Australia 6019 managed to get into the U.K. and out again without being detected by newsletter scouts. From a military stealth point of view this might be considered a successful operation. But then George Hadingham wrote to say that he and his wife had a most enjoyable luncheon in London with Paddy and his wife Eleanor. They knew each other in Jerusalem where Paddy served in J.O.P. 1946-1948 at the time when George was Superintendent in charge of Jerusalem District. It appears that they later had adventures together during the Mau Mau business in Kenya so they had much to talk about and apparently did just that. We hope the two visitors enjoyed their trip and trust they are now settled down again in Perth where Paddy is successful in the printing business. Now back to A. (Mac) McKeown, whose address has already been given in a previous paragraph. He regrets that there was not a complete historical section about the Signals Branch in A Job Well Done. A section in which he served in Palestine, needless to say, after

performing duty in both foot and mounted branches of the force. Mac also had experience in Port and Marine, but considering some of the equipment that was used, he considered the wireless section among the most efficient departments of the force. We heartily agree and are just as sad that more could not be made of the wireless/signals section in our official history. But much had to come out, almost as much as remained in. A length had to be imposed almost by guillotine and among the debris was, regretfully, the story of the wireless section, and for that matter the transport section too.

These days nearly all news tends to be depressing, and the Christmas edition of the newsletter did little to cheer up Jack Missen of 74 East Whitecroft, 52313 Range Road 232, Sherwood Park, Alberta, Canada T8B 1B7, when he read of the death of Mrs. Lillie Nolan. Jack and Hugh Nolan met when "Tes Col B" pulled into Tulkarm for one night in 1937. There the column collected Hugh and an ancient radio on a pack mule. It was the start of a friendship which still endures. Another reader who was to suffer similar sentiments was Michael Hankin-Turvin of O'Donnell 8, Madrid 9, Spain, when he read of the death of W. T. (Titch) Cullingham. They served together in Beersheba where as Divisional Inspector, Titch's staunch imperturbability and genial good nature contributed greatly to the smooth functioning of the service. (See further notices to obituaries already given — Ed). In this case the charming simplicity of Michael's address is something to reflect upon. So we shall repeat it: O'Donnell 8, Madrid 9, Spain. This is about as simple as an address can possibly be these days and surely a lesson can be learned from this. To set against depressions of this kind we can come up with an anti depressant, which in editorial terms means good news. Here we must turn to a snippet from Jim Leeder, who was mentioned in Sick Parade a couple of issues back but is now much improved and his visits to hospital have been reduced in frequency to once in each month. Peter Hornby of Preston area and R. Yates of Blackburn area have both been able to visit him and in this we are glad indeed.

We have heard from H. H. (Harry) Hargreaves of Pereybere, Grand Bay, Mauritius: R. T. (Roger) Brooks, HQ P & SS, HQ RAF, Germany BFPO 40: Brian Coase of 6 Gorse Close, Droitwich, Worcestershire WR9 7SG: E. H. (Ted) Wells of 67 Station Road, Wallingford, Oxfordshire OX10 0JZ: Joseph Wiener of 17000 Nazareth Illit, Atsmon Street, 16/73 Israel (who in turn has heard from Dick Sizeland of 51/52 High Street, Tittleshall, Kings Lynn, Norfolk PE22 2PJ) and Mrs. Kathy Brown of 10 Fernlea, Rothwell, Leeds, West Yorkshire LS26 0HT. There is every reason to believe they are all in good health.

Readers will recall we were able to publish a photograph from Wally Smith of 21 Grantham Bank, Barcombe Cross, Nr. Lewes,

East Sussex which was entitled "2nd Officers Training Course — Ramallah 1946" and it appeared on page 28 of the last December issue. There were some gaps in the legend because at the time some of those shown in the picture could not be recalled by name. Maurice Clarke, another Sussex member, this time of 15 Turners Mill Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH16 1NW, has been able to jog Wally's memory and between them they have been able to name the A/ASP shown in the photograph as Munday who was made up to that rank half way through the course after instructing at the Depot for some time. Several members identified Trutwein (or Truttles as he was often known) and the remaining unidentified face being that of McCracken. Thanks for the homework. But then Charles Greenstreet of Ravenscroft, Staplehay, Taunton, Somerset TA3 7EZ also applied his powerful mind to the photograph and he confirms the A/ASP as that of Tony (presumably Anthony) Munday of whom he also remembers was for a long time John Deevy's assistant in the Depot Sick Bay before becoming a law instructor. But then Charles turns to the picture of the Depot Promotional Course in the last issue and is of the opinion that it must have been taken in 1940 and not 1939 because readers will notice that all the budding NCO's are wearing the ribbon of the General Service Medal (The Orange Pickers) and this was not authorised until September of 1939.

The reference to Jim McCabe on page 10 of the last issue has brought some interesting correspondence. A letter from Roger Brooks, of HQ P & SS, HQ RAF, Germany, BFPO 40 and a former Beit Jibrini among other places in Palestine reminds us that Jim McCabe was there from 1943 'ish to 1945 'ish. At the time, Roger recalls, Jim had a grey horse called Denny with the hardest mouth of any beast alive. He feels sure that McCabe had a brother in the Sudan Defence Force at the time. He then produced a photograph of the missing Jim McCabe — mounted and spurred, together with a Beit Jibrin Christmas Menu for the year 1944 on which Jim's signature can be seen clearly. More of this Christmas Menu in a moment. Please keep it in your mind while we finish the case of McCabe because we have more. P. R. (Buck) Adams of Wheelgates, Swanton Abbot, Norwich, Norfolk NR10 5AH naturally recalls McCabe too. Are there any mounted men not known to Buck? We ask ourselves. He recalls Jim as a Mounted Corporal at Qalqilya and anyone who was in charge there at the time had to be able to platt sawdust in order to keep the peace, thanks to crime and politics. Jim later rose to ASP and went on to the Gold Coast/Ghana in 1948 and Buck found him still there in 1955 where he was in charge of Special Branch. From a letter to the late 'Cossie' when editor of this journal, there is reason to believe McCabe ended with Assistant Commissioner status. His wife came from Nottingham so are there any good detectives in that area to scan telephone books. Finally on this subject, A. W. (Bob) Rowberry of 28 Britannia Square, Worcester,

WR1 3DH. He too remembers McCabe at Qalqilya, although by now a sergeant and he was still there in 1943, before going south to Hebron (or Beit Jibrin). He most certainly had a brother in the Sudan Defence Force who spent a short leave at Qalqilya and kept everyone late at the dinner table relating stories of his life in the Sudan. So that's it. Game, Set and Match. We know a lot about McCabe except, where is he now? For those holding their breath, its back to the Beit Jibrin menu. We are unable to produce a facsimile of the actual menu but we supply a list of the decipherable names that appear on it. They are:- Ronald F. Bennett (believed to be the MT driver), S. F. Bailey, W. J. Kyle, Lawrence Patrick Perrett, T. Said, S. Blackburn, R. Hance, 'Tosh' (of whom Roger Brooks believes is not the 'Tosh' Duncan of bizarre and incredible fame), Jim McCabe, Hubert Gordon Marcon, Alexander McPheat and a name that looks like R. E. Bonne. Others are totally indecipherable.

But now by a cunning twist, we must guide readers back once more to Bob Rowberry's 'horsy' article in the last issue, (which Mrs. Editor thought was magnificent) because he mentioned Jimmy as one of the horses concerned and the star of his article. He had a letter from Joe Butler who was in Nablus with him and the letter enclosed a photograph of Jimmy. A wonderful surprise and an echo of many happy times together.

Now for another list of 'Heard Froms'. This time it includes:- Trevor Kirby of Whitecliff Road, Poole, Dorset BH14 8DU; G. H. A. (Gerald) Murphy of Stonecroft, Wormcliffe Lane, Kingsdown, Corsham, Wiltshire SN14 9AR (who is welcomed as a new member — Ed.); Ian Vick of Westward, 87 Tidcombe Lane, Tiverton, Devon EX16 4EH; J. L. Munro of P.O. Box 4600, Windhoek 9000, S. W. Africa/Namibia and who seems a bit lonely and is probably the only PP in the territory. Finally the Lovell Society for the Blind in the Bible Lands and the welcome sight of their April newsletter which keeps us updated with news of the society's work in Beirut and Jerusalem.

J. E. (Jim) Smith of Croft Cottage, 56 Loan Hawick, Roxburghshire TD9 QAY seems a busy sort of chap. He is engaged in the knitwear business, something for which Hawick is well known but he is also involved in travelling to many of the Royal and County Shows. For this reason he attends once a year the Badminton Horse Trials where he often met Reg Sandy from Wick, near Bristol and he is also regularly visited by Frank Bannister when in Yorkshire. Jim laments that one reason why he is usually unable to attend the annual Cenotaph Parade in London is because that particular week-end he is booked to do his stuff at the Horse of the Year Show at Wembley. But as none of us can be in two places at once, except perhaps members of Central Council, we must continue to hope that one day we shall enjoy Jim's presence in our ranks at the Cenotaph.

For those who are constantly amazed by coincidences, then the letter from Peter (Tiny) Platts will be of interest. He lives at 1/485 Marine Parade, Christchurch 7, New Zealand. This is a mere 850 miles, or so from Auckland in the far north which is the epi-centre of PP activity in that country. Peter is among the ten or twelve members who have tried to bring us up to date with the former British Constable Rodwell, mentioned in the December issue. He firmly states that Rodwell's first name is Geoffrey and that he died of 'T.B.' in Haifa. The two were at one time fellow passengers on the Orcades in November 1939. Rodwell was the recruit, while 'Tiny' Platts was rejoicing. He still has a photograph taken by Rodwell which shows 'Tiny' deckchained between two girls on that vessel. They were both NAAFI employees bound for Cairo at the time. By an enormous span of coincidence, 'Tiny' returned to U.K. via South Africa in 1942 and while boarding the Queen Elizabeth at Port Tewfik, he immediately met one of those girls, an Armenian lady named Marie Kondourougian who had in the meantime married a New Zealand Air Force officer. Several years after that, whom should he meet by chance at Weymouth, Dorset, but the other girl named Dorothy who was a Maltese by birth but by that time also married and working at nearby Portland. A curious chain of events and our knowledge of it all started with the Rodwell correspondence. 'Tiny' finally states quite firmly that Geoffrey Rodwell is now in everlasting sleep in a Haifa cemetery. We have to thank him for a very nice letter.

It is usually as difficult to finish Home Notes as to start them, but we must mention that Jack Ritchie, 2 Suidhe Crescent, Kincaig, Kingussie, Inverness-shire PH21 1NB sent an interesting photograph which for the moment leaves us to wonder when we can publish it. It is of the Nablus football XI in the year 1936. He recalls some of those who served with him in Nablus at the time and the names include:- Lackie Morrison, Ginger Smy, Paddy Flanagan (brother of he who was later DSP Flanagan) Slim Summerland, Darky Boden, Hefty Jordan and Tubby Nunn. He regrets the death of 'Ras' Gellatley (See Obituary notice—Ed) and at time of writing hoped to be able to attend the funeral.

T. J. (Tom) Foley, 5 The Camerons, Rannoch Drive, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire NG19 6RX sent an interesting cutting which is worth dealing with in substance. Many members will recall Roger Courtney (The White Hunter) who 'paddled?' down the Nile from East Africa to join the PP. Roger later wrote a book entitled 'Palestine Policeman' — Published by Herbert Jenkins Ltd. London 1939. He had already written a great deal about East Africa. Having said all that, Tom Foley's cutting from The Daily Mail of 17th November 1983 deals with Lt. Col. Roger Courtney, MBE, MC, one time professional hunter and gold prospector who later helped to found the Special Boat Squadron in 1940, with special

emphasis on canoes. "Could this be the one and same?" asks Tom. An interesting thought.

Mrs. Marjorie Abnett (wife of Harry Abnett who is not all that well at the moment) of 6 Lines Terrace, Chatham, Kent ME4 4NA has written a very appreciative letter to thank those who have called upon and written to Harry in recent months. Her letter to the General Secretary was held back from publication in the last issue. Particularly through this column she wishes to thank Jim Deacon who was with Harry at the time he was wounded in Palestine. W. Siffleet this time of 12 Bickersteth Road, Tooting, London SW17 9SF thinks that Onbashi ought to be made up to Shaweesh. Nice thought and he probably needs the pay. Jim Bamford now of Elmfield, Bridge Town Hill, Totnes, South Devon TQ9 5BH has left the hotel trade, please note. His association with Blagdon Manor is ended and he and his wife are going into other ventures. He has asked through these pages to remind his many friends and comrades not to drop into Blagdon Manor, as of yore, as the new owners might not understand. Look for him a few miles away at Totnes instead. So that's another message delivered.

A. F. (Terry) Burke, 7 La Vallatte Court, Ras il Qawra, Malta has corrected us on one or two matters that appeared in the last issue in which he felt involved. We make suitable sounds of contrition, but he also wishes to point out that Miss Tufnell, that interesting lady mentioned on page 14 of the last issue does not live in Malta but at 10 Redcliffe Place, London SW10 9DD. In correspondence Miss Tufnell, writing in October 1983 stated to Terry "You would have enjoyed a lecture I heard this week, given by Mr. Patrick Irwin, entitled The Anglican Bishopric in Jerusalem — An Historical Survey, in which he made several references to the Palestine Police. In due course his talk will be published in the Quarterly of the Palestine Exploration Fund (now appearing only twice a year).

JOHN PARKER BEM



As a British Inspector in charge of the Dog Section.
Of 1926 vintage he was ASP by 1943.

Photograph from Mrs. Kitty Symons

SOUTHERN DISTRICT RUGBY XV — 1941



L. to R. Standing: R. J. Burden, L. Nicholas, Major C. J. Wilkinson DSP,
W. S. Grant, T. Slattery, F. G. Maclean, H. Greasley, G. H. Upfold,
S. N. Hancock.
Sitting: T. Johnson, J. G. Burnett, D. Atkinson (Capt.), H. L. Withers,
H. P. Roberts.
Ground: J. Mills, L. Hannan.

Photograph from: G. H. (George) Upfold

JIM McCABE AT BEIT JIBRIN



Where are you Jim?

Photograph from Roger Brooks

WEDDING BELLS



The wedding of Les and Beryl Seaton. We wonder if this young man ever thought he would one day be Vice Chairman of the O.C.A.

Photograph from Les Seaton

SOMEWHERE UP NORTH



In the picture is D.S.P. Medlock, B/Sgt Keeling and B/M/Const Acheson

Photograph from Bill Barber

SOMEWHERE DOWN SOUTH



Photograph from Bill Barber

LONDON BRANCH

The branch meets on the first Saturday of every month at The Cardinal "Headquarters", Francis Street, London, S.W.1. at 8.00 p.m. The presence of the ladies is positively encouraged.

Chairman: L. Sexton, 1a Wellington Court, Wellington Road, St. John's Wood, London NW8 9TA. Tel: 01-722 6977.

Vice-Chairman: G. Andrews, 195 Rivermead Court, Ranelagh Gardens, Fulham, London SW6 3SG. Tel: 01-731 6208.

Secretary: W. Anderson, 19 Priestley Road, Mitchem, Surrey CR4 2LL. Tel: 01-648 8324.

Treasurer: T. Freeburn, 24 Dale View Avenue, Chingford, London E4 6PL. Tel: 01-524 2081.

Committee: A. Burn, R. Hamilton, T. Isted, E. Jackson, P. O'Boyle, T. Shand, R. Stanners and G. Stewart.

The branch Ladies Night Buffet/Dance took place on Saturday 10th March 1984 and requires only one word to actually describe it. The word is "Fantastic". Those who attended were The Association President, Brigadier J. M. Rymer Jones, The

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Association Chairman, T. J. (Terry) Shand and his wife Judith, The Association General Secretary, J. H. (John) Foster and his wife Dorothy and several members of Central Council such as myself (Bill Anderson wearing two hats) and my wife Eunice. Len Sexton who is also our branch chairman and his wife Mary, George Stewart and his wife Joyce, Tom Freeburn who is also our branch treasurer, George Andrews who is also our branch Vice-Chairman and his wife Edna and Tom Walker and his wife Connie. While Alf Burns and his wife Day, Tom Isted, Ted and Phyl Jackson and Bob and Audrey Stanners were all of our branch committee.

After all that, the roll call looked something like this:- Alf and Iris Burton (Midlands Branch), Tom and Betty Urwin (S & W Counties Branch), Ken and Gwen Cowdrey and Tom Harbison (from South Midlands Branch), Cabby and Ida Walter, John and Heather McVitty, Ron Pemble, Fred Pays, Mrs. Marion Thompson and David and Marjorie Niven (all from S E Counties Branch). The Londoners included: Stan and Margaret Baxendale, John Bond, George and Mona Elgar, Bill Parks and his wife, Mrs. Bella Todman, Geoff and Phyl Tymms, Charles and Mary Wood, Ron and Cheryl Rose, Brian and Linda Woolhead and Ian and Christine Denley. There was a goodly number of friends, family members and 'PP' supporters to make up the number which totalled 16. Fred Pays had eleven in his party for instance. Our Association Treasurer, Sid Johnson was able to spend a short time with us and we were also pleased to see Yusuf Assali who was also able to look in and linger.

Without doubt the highlight of the evening was the presentation of a plaque to Brigadier Rymer Jones. This was done by Terry Shand and the plaque was arranged by Central Council to commemorate Rymer's connection with the old force and with this association since 1943 — a total of 41 years and it also marked his connection by way of a long and active life with the Royal Artillery, the Palestine Police and the Metropolitan Police. After his words of response in which he expressed thanks to all old comrades, the assembly stood and sang "For he's a jolly good fellow" In due time, Terry Shand sang The Holy City and at one stage of the evening, three of his guests, Michael O'Duffy and his sons Michael and Cormack, gave us an enjoyable interlude of folk songs. Thus it all ends with the word with which we started. "Fantastic".

It only remains to report the Cardinal meetings. In this February (5th) was regarded as very successful. Those there being, Terry Shand, Sid Johnson, Len Sexton, George Andrews, Bill and Eunice Anderson, Ted and Phyllis Jackson, Bob and Audrey Stanners, George and Joyce Stewart, Stan and Margaret Baxendale, John Bond (Our Chelsea Pensioner), Alf and Dai Burn, Harry and Rosa Cassels, Bob Ellis, Harry and Marjorie Jervis, Ken Judd,

Bill Parks, Bill Turner, Geoff and Phyllis Tymms, Ted Heading, John and Heather McVitty with guests) Ken and Hilary Freeman, Jim and George Meekins, Albert Parent, Ron Pemble and Stan Knott. Bill Leadbetter dropped in from Australia as he has been known to do before. On the other hand the March (4th) meeting is described as 'reasonable'. Micky Hills was here this time to join with the Central Council 'top brass' mentioned at the previous month's meeting. Tom Freeburn and Yusuf Assali were two others who made their appearance. Mrs. Bella Todman, Charles and Gwen Gammon were also there. Otherwise the list gets a bit repetitive. But we were able to welcome Bob Yates visiting from Australia and in the course of the evening Ron Kittle of nearby Churchill Gardens, Pimlico called in. He had taken the advice of Arthur New and it was his first visit. He took away an enrolment form and we hope to see more of him. The April meeting (8th) can be described as "enjoyable". Once again there was a heavy concentration of the regulars, garnished with Paddy O'Boyle, Lawrie Macdonald and Bill Shearman. We also had a strong contingent from South Eastern Counties in the shape of Charlie Heathfield out again after his stay in hospital. Come to think of it, Stan Knott was also fresh out of Hospital, George Lancaster, Bill and Gill Moorhead, Ron Pemble and Derek Sayer. From Scotland we welcomed Harry and Lily Anderson with their daughter Frances and her husband John. They all come from Perth.

Sid Johnson turned up at each meeting this year so far and comes all the way from East Coast Essex for the purpose. The two Meekins, George and Jim come up from mid Kent and have been to the first three Cardinal meetings, according to our scribe. John McVitty also gets a medal as do Len Sexton, George Andrews, Bob Ellis and Ted Heading for regular attendance. I must not mention myself, I suppose. The best form of leadership is example. But we do recognise that business and family and even association duties do call us away sometimes. Must not forget that either.

W.A.

RYMERS WORDS OF THANKS

"The presentation to me of the splendid plaque, illustrating service in my much lived Gunners and two great police forces, was a very emotional experience and I hope that you will express my thanks in a few words in the next newsletter. To all my fellow members of our great association. What a lovely lot you are".

JOHN MURRAY RYMER JONES

HERTFORDSHIRE BRANCH

Chairman: J. Druce, 31 Parsonage Road, Welham Green, Hatfield, Hertfordshire AL9 7NA. Tel: Hatfield 63875.

Secretary: F. A. Randall, 21 Elm Gardens, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire AL8 6RX. Tel: Welwyn Garden 21209.

Treasurer: W. I. Flynn, 590 Howlands, Welwyn Garden City,

Hertfordshire AL7 4ET. Tel: Welwyn Garden 31475.

Things do not look good for this branch. Deaths, old age, infirmity and movement away from the county have brought about a minimal membership and activity, so that we must think seriously as to our future. We have been in touch with Bill Nicholls of Luton in Bedfordshire who hopes to meet Jack Briggs one of these days, when he comes home from Dubai. Otherwise not a lot to report.

F.A.R.

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SOUTH-EASTERN COUNTIES BRANCH

Chairman: W. H. (Bill) Church, 1 Wimbourne Avenue, Redhill, Surrey RH1 5AQ. Tel: Redhill 65488.

Vice-Chairman: Maurice H. Hill, 24 Fourth Avenue, Worthing, West Sussex BN14 9NY. Tel: Worthing 32665.

Secretary: C. A. B. (Cabby) Walter, 56 Village Way, Beckenham, Kent BR3 3NP. Tel: 01-658 1059.

Treasurer: Maurice B. Clarke, 15 Turners Mill Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH16 1NW. Tel: Haywards Heath 454969.

We circulated our annual news sheet in February and have had a very good response and as far as one can tell in advance, the A.G.M. scheduled to take place in Rye will be well attended and it is hoped that many members of this branch will attend the June meeting in The Cardinal, which we sponsor (for the benefit of all).

Meanwhile we are all geared up for the big Week End at

SOUTH-EAST COUNTIES BRANCH

AWAY WEEK-END

BEACH HOTEL — LITTLEHAMPTON — WEST SUSSEX

8th to 9th September, 1984

8th September

DINNER/DANCE

7.00 p.m. Tickets £7.50 Dress: Lounge

9th September

LUNCHEON

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Telephone: Littlehampton 23846

Hotel Bookings:

Telephone: Littlehampton 7277

The Beach Hotel in Littlehampton on 8th/9th September, which has become our annual branch gathering with a 'Lets get away from it all' flavour of an entire week-end together. A separate advertisement gives all the details of this event which has proved very popular for two years and is likely to remain so. Meanwhile on 8th April, those of us in Sussex who could not wait until September, gathered for a luncheon at The Beach and a report on this venture will be forthcoming in the next issue.

It is already reported elsewhere that four favoured members had an excellent luncheon at The Chequers in High Halden in Kent at the invitation of the Association President, Brigadier J. M. Rymer Jones. Long may he enjoy living in our branch area. Local 'mini' gatherings of PP are to be encouraged always and I remind branch members that we have concentrations of members in such places as Croydon, Guildford, Maidstone, Sidcup, Bexhill and Eastbourne areas. It only requires one member in such an area to set up a meeting point, and if three or more turn up. You have a 'mini' gathering. Think about it.

1985 will be our 21st birthday year and we aim to see that the branch is as strong and as active as ever for the Associations 50th anniversary.

C.A.B.W.

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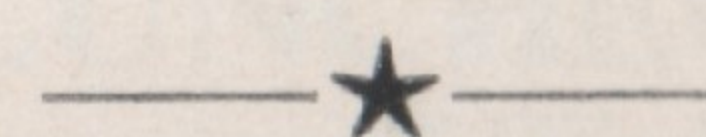
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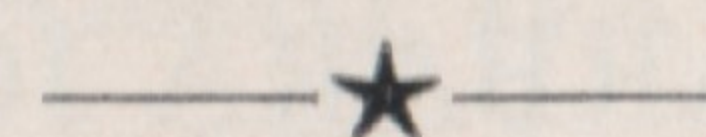
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SUNDAY, 15th JULY, 1984



Please notify in advance

SOUTHERN & WESTERN COUNTIES BRANCH

Chairman: Vacant.

Vice-Chairman: J. Bamford, 'Elmfield', Bridge Town Hill, Totnes,
South Devon TQ9 5BH. Tel: (0803) 864029.

Secretary/Treasurer: T. F. Urwin, Wood Close, Lower Collipriest
Farm, Tiverton, Devon EX16 4PT. Tel: Tiverton 254166.

Committee: C. W. J. Greenstreet, E. du Val, B. P. Henwood,
J. A. Jenson, F. M. Kelly, Mrs. I. Mann, G. N. Simpson
and C. A. Wade.

This branch held a social gathering at The Courtlands Hotel, Bournemouth on 18th March and about 20 attended of whom 13 enjoyed an excellent lunch. There then followed a branch committee meeting. We can confirm that the next annual dinner/dance will take place at the same hotel on 1st December 1984. Accommodation at the hotel will be at the flat rate of £14 per head with no extras. A great deal more can be said about all this in the next issue.

There will again be two 'Huflis' in the branch area this summer. The first will be the now traditional Isle of Wight Huflis at the home of Bob and Barbara Johnston, Ruddington House, Hooke Hill, Freshwater, Isle of Wight on 8th July. See separate advertisement in this issue for details. The second will take place at the home of Cyril Smith on 15th July at 54 Revel Park Road, Plymton, Devon. The details of this are explained in a second advertisement. In both cases visitors supply their own food while the hosts will produce drink. Both are well worth supporting and if the weather is even half right, there is the chance of a wonderfully informal 'get-together' — a pleasant day out for all the family. Lots of hard work go into these functions and all the hosts ask is a telephone call in advance that you are attending. Can't be fairer than that.

Sadly we have some more deaths to report and I mention Basil, St. J. (Tiddler) Hickman and Harry Conway OBE, both of whom have obituary notices further back in this issue. Meanwhile details of a branch meeting at Taunton on 20th May will be found in the next issue, as this will long since have gone to press. Stay lucky.

T.F.U.

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SOUTH WALES BRANCH

Chairman: N. Swain, 66 Park Court Road, Bridgend, Mid Glamorganshire CF31 4BP. Tel: 0656 63942.

Secretary/Treasurer: D. Howell, 11 Turnstone Road, Rest-Bay, Porthcawl, Mid-Glamorgan CR36 3RD. Tel: Porthcawl 4992.

Ssh. Nothing stirring!

D.H.

SOUTH MIDLANDS BRANCH

Chairman: J. H. Foster, ARICS., 101 Howberry Road, Stanmore, Middlesex HA7 4SD. Tel: 01-954 6904.

Secretary/Treasurer: Lew H. Boffin, 13 Highworth Road, Faringdon, Oxfordshire SN7 7EG. Tel: Faringdon 20225.

We regret the loss of a former branch member in the death of W. J. G. Kyle who in more recent years has been living in Co. Durham. (See obituary notices—Ed) Also a great friend of this branch, Mr. Clifford Rogers, has also passed away. Although not a member of the force, he was a loyal supporter of this branch from the late 1950's and attended most of our dinners so that he will be sadly missed.

On a brighter note, Mrs. Carol Rawlins, wife of Charles Rawlings a former ASP in Palestine has been living the high life in Spain. Carol is a singer of much talent and has nearly always been engaged in Amateur Operatic activities. She visited Spain with the Anglo-Spanish Society. Carol speaks very good Spanish and while the party was in Madrid they had a reception at the home of the British Ambassador, Sir Richard Parsons who personally conducted the party around the Palacio Real, one of the homes of the Duke and Duchess of Alba and the visit ended with an audience with the King of Spain at the Palacio. By the time readers get this far we hope Carol has returned from Cloud 9, besides which we require her services next autumn to sing The Holy City for us.

All is otherwise quiet in this sector.

L.H.B.

INVITATION

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MIDLANDS BRANCH

Meets at the Birmingham United Services Club, 287 Broad Street, Birmingham on the third Saturday of each month at 8.30 p.m.

Chairman: Fred J. Gardiner, 14 Brampton Avenue, Hall Green, Birmingham, West Midlands, B28 9LG. Tel: 021-744 2640.

Vice-Chairman: E. (Ted) Butler, 2 Morgan Road, Frazley Road, Tamworth, Staffordshire B78 3LA. Tel: (0827) 56382.

Secretary: Les G. Faulkes, 35 Home Farm Crescent, Whitnash, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CV31 2QW. Tel: (0926) 32814.

Treasurer: Alf Burton, 8 Willow Street, Desford, Leicestershire LE9 9HB. Tel: (04557) 2494.

The 35th Annual Dinner/Dance of the Midland Branch took place at the Kenilworth Moat House Hotel on Sunday 17th March 1984. This was the first time that the branch had used this particular venue and the general comments amount to approbation by those who attended. Of the principal speeches, The Toast to Absent Friends was given by the branch secretary, Les Faulkes and the Toast to the Association was given by the branch chairman, Fred Gardiner, which embodied a welcome to the guests. The response came from the Association Treasurer, Sidney Johnson in what was felt by most to be a lively and effective style. Among the principal guests of the branch were: E. P. (Ted) Horne, Chairman Emeritus for the Association who came up from Hampshire, the Association Treasurer, already named (from Essex), and the Association General Secretary, John Foster (London). While other members of Central Council included: S. W. (Micky) Hills, Bill Anderson, George Stewart and Don Cartwright. There were many representatives from other branches, particularly South Midlands Branch and S. E. Counties Branch. The former sent us Lew and Pam Boffin, Jack and Gwen Messenger and Bill and Daphne Gibbons, while the latter sent 'Cabby' Walter and his wife Ida, Bill and Mrs. Barber, Mrs. Marion Thompson and David and Marjory Niven although he turned up without his usual passenger, Brigadier J. M. Rymer Jones whom we all missed this year.

Unfortunately the Association Chairman, T. J. (Terry) Shand was unable to attend this year. He usually doubles as soloist to lead us into the anthemic refrain of The Holy City. Instead someone else had to start us off and without even the friendly accompaniment of a pianoforte. That someone else proved to be me.

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But it all worked out even to the point of saying we all sang it rather well. In fact we sang it beautifully. We have had occasion to say several times before that the Midland Branch is the oldest branch of the association in terms of continuous existence. We are very proud of that.

L.G.F.

EAST MIDLANDS BRANCH

Chairman: H. G. Elvin, High View, 80 Violet Road, Carlton, Nottingham NG4 3QO. Tel: (0602) 871289.

Vice-Chairman: T. G. McNeill, KPM., 67 North Road, West Bideford, Nottinghamshire. Tel: (0602) 813736

Secretary: H. G. Coaten, 6 Newton Avenue, Bingham, Nottinghamshire BG13 8FU. Tel: (0949) 37907.

Treasurer: A. Anderson, Tai O, Lanark Close, Wollaton Park, Nottingham. Tel: (0602) 781908.

Committee: J. Chettle, W. Hargreaves, P. Mathews and L. Rhodes.

We held a branch meeting on 26th February 1984 and our General Secretary, John Foster came up from London to see how we were getting along. We are reliably informed that he was pleased and impressed to discover such a good turn-out including of course, wives and families. The report of the branch's first Buffet/Dance on 5th May will be included in the next issue.

H.G.C.

MERSEYSIDE BRANCH

Meets on the first Wednesday of each month at the Sergeants Mess, Liverpool Scottish Regiment, Score Lane, Liverpool 6.

Chairman: A. Hawley, 119 Birley Street, Newton-le-Willows, Merseyside WA12 9UN. Tel: 092-52 4315.

Vice-Chairman: Peter Hornby, 2a Windsor Villas, Garstang Road, Barton, Preston, Lancashire PR3 5AA. Tel: 0772 864590.

Secretary: A. R. Gregson, 12 Regent Avenue, Liverpool L14 6UL. Tel: 051-489 2068.

Treasurer: J. M. Thomas, 7 Rimmer Avenue, Liverpool L16 2NE.

The report of our 24th Annual Dinner/Dance will appear in the next issue but meanwhile we are pleased to welcome back into the branch area, Bob and Marina Wilkinson, after their

lengthy sojourn in Oman. They are living at 'Lamont', Taylors Lane, Pilling, Lancashire PR3 6AB. We hope to see them regularly. Congratulations are due to Cliff and Lil Jacobsen on becoming grandparents again. They live at 13 Colwyn Grove, Prestatyn, Clwyd, North Wales. Now Victoria has a little brother. We regret the passing of Charles Arnold, a member of this branch and whose obituary notice appears elsewhere.

A.R.G.

YORKSHIRE BRANCH

Chairman: H. J. Keeton, 3 Heather Close, Huntington, York, North Yorkshire YO3 9PB. Tel: York 769032.

Vice-Chairman/Secretary/Treasurer: R. Saxon, 46 St. Pauls Road, Kirkheaton, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire HD5 0EX. Tel: Huddersfield 28247.

Social Secretary: D. Bland, 28 Southwood Drive, Thorne, Nr. Doncaster, South Yorkshire DN8 5QS. Tel: Thorne 813242.

Committee: E. Garbutt and W. Moss.

Information which arrived too late for the last issue of the newsletter includes our Sunday meeting on 4th December 1983 which was our annual Christmas Luncheon at the Mansion House, Roundhay Park, Leeds and it was nice to see so many members and wives come together under arrangements orchestrated by our Social Secretary, Derrick Bland. It seems that 67 were present altogether. Then on Sunday 29th January 1984, the branch Annual General Meeting took place at the Green Dragon, Emley Moor when 27 members attended. On 18th March we met at the Bay Horse, Tadcaster and 40 members turned up in spite of it being a very cold day. We received apologies for absence from George and Betty Brown, Frank and Irene Goldthorpe as well as Betty Smith.

The big branch annual Dinner/Dance was held at the York Racecourse Restaurant on Saturday, 14th April 1984. (News has filtered through that about 75 attended, including the Association President, Brigadier J. M. Rymer Jones, with the 'I.G.'s' driver, David Niven and his wife Marjory all up from Kent. Central Councillors S. W. (Micky) Hills, George and Joyce Stewart were also there from London. Mr. and Mrs. Laurie McDonald (Essex), Mr. and Mrs. Ron Turner (Kent) and G. N. (Happy) Simpson (Dorset) also made it. Doubtless we shall have all the details in the next issue—Ed).

The branch has heard from Adrian (Slooge) and Kay Hawley (Merseyside), Les Salmon (Bridlington), Charlie and Noel Stewart

(Aberfeldy), Harry and Kay Hartley (Leeds), Mrs. Jean Anderson (Thurso), Alex Maxwell (Leicester), Mrs. Iris Hornsey (Malton in North Yorkshire), Alf Horton (Leicester), Dr. Jack Thompson (Dorset) and Jim Smith (Hawick). The next issue will also contain details of our branch meeting at the Green Dragon at Emley Moor of Sunday 20th May last.

R.S.

SCOTTISH BRANCH

Chairman: C. Kennedy, South Don, St. Andrews, Fife KY16 9YE. Tel: Balmullo 242.

Secretary/Treasurer: J. M. Lindsey, 2 Lomond Bank, Glenfarg, Perthshire PH12 9PF. Tel: 05773 382.

On Sunday 18th March 1984, a happy group of 54 members and ladies, sat down to an excellent meal at The Isle of Skye Hotel, in Perth. Bob Christie (who is still confined to sick bay) was well represented when seven of his family attended. Apart from the regulars, we were able to welcome Neil Kennedy from Largs, who brought with him Davina McClure. We were also pleased to welcome Ernie Kay who despite having a leg amputated recently, looked amazingly well and donated some of his fine pictures to the raffle. His chauffeur on this occasion was Jim McFeat whom we must thank. Hugh MacDonald once again made the long trip from Inverness to be with us. We missed Bob and Pat Field who were unable to attend this year. After mentioning her name we always remind readers that Pat is one of 'Cossie's' daughters and so has a special place at our gatherings. We are saddened at the death of Jim Gellatly (See Obituary notices—Ed). Our branch secretary met Alistair Campbell in Perth during the month of March and he still looks very much the DSP with a 'See your face in his boots' etc. He, as well as Bill Coleman and John (Minor) Thomson will especially miss Jim Gellatly because for many years they held a regular 'mini branch' meeting on certain Thursdays at noon in Perth and in time they were joined by Jimmy Hynds and Jim Imrie. But alas both these two have also passed on. After the social part of the day, we held the branch A.G.M. and we welcome Reg (Bugs) Emery on to the branch committee.

Once more we look forward to the annual Dinner Dance which will again take place at the Station Hotel in Perth on Saturday 25th August 1984. Foregather at 7.00 p.m. for 7.30 p.m. The tickets will be at the remarkably low cost of £8.50 per head. As usual we must advise those who wish to book accommodation at the hotel to do so as soon as possible. The room price is £15 per person for a double or twin room with bathroom, and £18 per person for a single room with bathroom. Anyone wanting bed and

breakfast accommodation near the hotel should arrange things through me. (Jimmy Lindsey). Otherwise I can but report that such 'senior' members of the branch as Jimmy Dods, Bill Coleman, Charlie Stewart, Donald Fraser, Jack Ritchie and Angus Westwater are doing well.

J.M.L.

AUSTRALIA (New South Wales Branch)

Chairman: W. R. (Bill) Wiggins, 1 Munoorra Street, Seaforth, 2092

Vice-Chairman: Harry Steel, 14 Sefton Road, Thornleigh, Sydney 2120.

Secretary: F. L. Ormsby, Unit 23, 39 Woodstock Street, Bondi Junction, Sydney 2022.

Treasurer: E. L. Jeffrey, 6/16 Waratah Street, Rushcutters Bay, 2011.

In February, Rob and Eileen Whitmore and their two children came over from New Zealand and stayed in the Sydney area. We managed to spend a Sunday together at the Royal Motor Yacht Club, Rose Bay. The weather was marvellous and we had a fine lunch and frolic in the club swimming pool. Eileen is the daughter

SCOTTISH BRANCH

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of Paddy Kenny who can usually be found at 6/32a Peer Street, Christchurch 4, New Zealand. We see James and Mary Bidmead from time to time when they are in Sydney. On 24th February, which was a Friday, the branch gathered in the Board Room of the British ex-Services Club in Sydney for pre dinner drinks and then went through to the dining room. We had three visitors as guests. Sheila Prague, wife of Uday from Tel Aviv and her school friend, Jo, with whom she was staying. Howard Grenville who kindly brought some ties from the UK as well as some other goodies so that in effect we had a mini branch of the Soukh. We were able to welcome as a re-joining member Nigel Hall who had his first get-together with us. Others foregathered were: Fred and Beatrice Sylvester, Frances Meadows, Bill and Winsome Wiggins, Paddy Collins, Bill Anderson, Harry and Betty Steel, Gerry Shephard, Tom Harney, Ted Jeffery, George Limn, myself and my wife Iris. Which makes 18 altogether and not bad 36 years after the Stand Down.

Bill Anderson and Paddy Collins are planning something together which may involve a future change of address to the Port Macquarie area. This is Reg Stewart's stamping ground and a good 200 miles north of here, so watch this space for news. On 27th February (It seems to be a busy month for us) Reg Noakes, no less, arrived on the 'Princess Mahuri'. Derry Atkinson met the ship and spent much of Monday and Tuesday with the two Noakes (Reg and Marjorie). Bill Anderson also tried to contact the visitors and actually met the ship, but somehow failed and returned sadly to Windsor where he lives. Wally Hand (State of Victoria) has written to say that he and Kitty may visit us in August while Eric Meadows has been on escort duty to the Mayor of Bethlehem and has escorted him around Melbourne, Canberra as well as Sydney. The Mayor is on an official visit and among many others, our Prime Minister, Bob Hawke, entertained the party. A former PP ought to be able to take all this in his stride (but no mention of a rifle and fifty—Ed).

F.L.O.

AUSTRALIA (The rest of it)

Because it is slightly nearer, we take Western Australia first and in this region we start with a letter from A. E. (Arthur) Wiltshire of 23 Halgania Way, Duncraig, W.A. 6023 who formerly enjoyed the rank and number of British Sergeant 4 in Palestine. We have been in correspondence over one or two things, and through these pages Mrs. Kathleen Booth (widow of the late Ken Booth) wishes to thank Arthur for doing so much to make her recent visit to Western Australia so interesting and pleasant. She was among real friends, or so she felt and it was much appreciated.

Moving eastwards to Victoria, a letter to our Treasurer from Harry Dobson, 11 Laane Avenue, Rosanna Victoria 3084 is at the top of her list. He starts with a sober and mind-bending comment that "It is interesting to note that surface mail letters from the U.K. take about the same time as the grain ships which sailed between Australia and the U.K. in the last century". This is an interesting observation because a lot of members feel the surface post takes longer today than 100 years ago, so that if Harry is right, then the postal service must be much better than we thought.

But then Harry goes on to remind us of Ginger Smy of Nablus fame, and about whom one or two readers have asked for news. He reminds us that Ginger had been in Palestine about 14 years when they first met (1942 'ish) and so must have been of 1929 vintage. He had never taken his allotment of U.K. leave and it is believed that he did continuous service until 1948. He loved Nablus area above all others and was of course well known on the Mounted Branch there. His Arabic was good but very 'Nabulsi' It is Harry's opinion that Ginger was one of the best policemen we ever had, a sentiment with which most of us who knew him would agree. Altogether there were three pages of delightful news and views and we thank Harry very much for it.

E. J. (Ernie) Brice CPM. of Mabua, 7 Raynes Park Road, Hampton, Victoria 3188 should be losing his 'Pomme accent' by now and seems to have settled down. He also wrote to our Treasurer and between them they settled the vulgar subject of money. Also from Victoria, came a letter from Arthur New, 5 Victoria Avenue, Elsternwick, 3185, which reminded us of the days when Arthur was Secretary of the former Victoria Branch of this association. He was one of those kind enough to inform us of the death of Jock Duffy (details appear elsewhere—Ed).

Finally we turn to A.C.T. and a letter from Derek Sharp, 49 Gungurra Crescent, Rivett. A.C.T. 2611 came addressed to the Association Chairman, Terry Shand. Derek serves in the Commonwealth Police and is now Staff Officer to the Deputy Commissioner (Investigations). He brings news of Peter Wilkins, Peter Thompson and George Forshaw. Peter Wilkins finishes with Australian Security Service next year and Peter Thompson finishes with the Federal Police at the same time, while George and he have to plod on until 1988. Altogether a nice newsy letter, for which many thanks.

EDITOR

NEW ZEALAND BRANCH (Auckland)

Chairman/Secretary/Treasurer: Norman S. Stewart, 39 Walter Street, Takapuna, Auckland 9. Tel: 493 458.

The April meeting of this branch took place on 8th of the month at the home of Paddy and Hanna Stewart. Those present included: Terry Cottam, Jack Binsley, John Binsley, Dick Hill, Brank Brothers, Frank Mouque, John Barnett (our newest addition) and yours truly. We received apologies from Ken Pike, Ray Brothers, Eric Smith, John Miller and Denis Wilcockson. At this meeting Norman Stewart and John Barnett discovered that they had also served in Tanganyika at the same time although neither recalls seeing the other there.

N.S.S.

A previous letter from Norman Stewart, dated February, was mostly concerned with the activities of the Stewart's, visit to the State of Victoria in Australia where he had a family reunion with his daughter, Sherry Ann, over the Christmas period. By all accounts Paddy and his wife, Hanna, had a wonderful time and it is only by a toss of a coin that the news given hereunder appeared under New Zealand, as opposed to a report from Australia. The couple rented a cottage in Orange, which is in New South Wales (for those lemons who do not know where it is—Ed). This is pure George Limn country, although there is no evidence that George knew that his backyard was being invaded. Once settled in, the Stewarts visited Canberra in ACT and were very impressed with the large scale museum models of the various battle fields in which the Australian forces have distinguished themselves and Paddy was particularly attracted with the 1914-1918 scenes of the battlefields around Gaza and Beersheba which brought back memories of villages and wadis with which he was once familiar when stationed in Gaza on the mounted section. In Melbourne they were able to visit Mary Gow, widow of the late Cameron Gow, former British Sergeant at V.R.D. Haifa. It was unfortunate that they were unable to meet Wally and Kitty Hand, who appeared to be away from their grazing ground at Ballarat at the time. But Hanna was able to meet Reg Priestley at Geelong but then Arthur New in Melbourne called together a nice party in honour of the visitors and they met Cyril Trower, Alan Bolton, Dave Gould, George and Shirley Robertson and of course Arthur, the man himself. A luncheon party did not finish until 5.00 p.m. and five hours was made up with eating, drinking and an ingredient called 'Do you remember?'.

Paddy Stewart is an Ulsterman and he was also able to meet a fellow Ulsterman and former colleague from Kenya Police days in 'Paddy' Perrott, who owns the Executive Motel at St. Kilda which is a home from home for Kenya types and any of our chaps who also served in that territory might as well know about it and drop in too.

So, as explained earlier, this wandering kiwi has given us a lot of interesting material for the newsletter which we might not otherwise have received. It seems proper that it is all slotted into the New Zealand Branch notes. If any reader thinks otherwise, then let him pretend that he is reading part of the Australian notes.

EDITOR

SOUTH AFRICA

John Fforde watchers will be pleased to know that we had a nice long letter from him which was dated 15th March and we remind you that he lives at 22 Riverclub Village, P.O. Box 883, Riverclub 2149 R.S.A. Readers will recall that John has been through a "Rough Patch" and 1983 was not his favourite year. From his letter we must construe that his spirits are once more returned to the John Fforde we all once knew, but he points out that his back (sciatic), circulation and heart and eye (shingles problems) are not likely to leave him and he aims to keep reasonably active. He was at the time of writing in close touch with Percy and Lee Cleaver as well as Paddy and Lilly Patterson and Peter and Pat Godding. Indeed John's former A.I.G. initiative was put to good purpose when he and Percy had a long talk over lunch one Sunday in which the article Food for Thought in the Christmas issue was discussed.

Readers will recall that everyone was asked to submit views to Central Council as to our distant future and on this John and Percy were in apparent agreement. The A.G.M., Annual Dinner and Cenotaph Parade should in their view go on for as long as possible, but should the age factor which leads to the "stay at home" syndrome become uppermost, then at least the branches should carry on for as long as possible afterwards and the newsletter was considered an absolute **must**. Our funds should go eventually to the Benevolent Association. In all this they reflect the majority viewpoint of those who have written to us on the matter. All letters of this nature have been marked "General Secretary to see and note." John Fforde has also heard from Mrs. Heather Boyd, daughter of the late Jock Munro and we are pleased to know that she is in touch with one of our members at least. Hugh Nolan from 6 Loerie Street, Paradise, Kynsha, Cape, R.S.A. wrote to our General Secretary of this and that. Friends

will recall this former A.S.P. of Signals Branch, of 1937 vintage went on to serve in Nyasaland and Northern Rhodesia before settling down in South Africa. It is nice to know he is in good fettle.

Meanwhile Peter Lee can now be found on the transfer list from Hampshire U.K. to The Roydons, Musgrove Road, Berea, Durban, Natal, R.S.A. As far as we can estimate, about twelve newsletters go off to Natal each quarter and Peter's nearest P.P. neighbour looks like being W. C. (Bill) Castle, Flat 1, Ridge High, 84 Ridge Road, Berea, Durban 4001, R.S.A. We wonder when they will discover each other.

EDITOR

FIRST LEAVE HOME

From a letter dated 6th March, 1984 from Geoffrey N. (Happy) Simpson, The Cottage, 2 Bradbourne Road, Bournemouth, Dorset BH2 5ST.

In April 1944, I was involved in repairing a generator in the Nazareth Tegart when a message was delivered asking whether I would like to take leave. I was busy at the time and brushed off the messenger, who then said "But this is U.K. leave. Sarge." I rushed to Jerusalem to complete passport renewal etc. and was just about within the first batch of those to proceed on U.K. leave during the war. My first leave since joining the force five years previously. After considerable trouble we managed to find H16 in Port Said. That was the number of the ship in convoy, as ship's names do not appear in correspondence. Somewhere near Malta, the convoy was attacked by dive bombers. We listened afterwards to the news and heard that a convoy had been attacked in the Med but no damage or casualties. Fine words as we had spent more than two hours watching the debris floating past. We had two battalions of the Royal Marines on board as well as Harry Roy and his band and an ENSA group with Chili Boucher in it. Harry Roy offered to give a band performance, but the Colonel O.C. Troops, made a proviso that only members of the Armed Forces should attend but this was soon upended when Harry replied "My friends among the Palestine Police will attend—or no concert" and of course we did attend.

Later I was approached by Major Graham Greene, the famous author who was something of a public relations officer and he asked "Why didn't the Palestine Police join in the various sports events?" I said "We wished to see who won the events and then we would challenge same." Among our fraternity were the Police Tug-o-War Team and Boxing Team. Certainly the troops did not bargain for the strength of the opposition. I wonder if Slooge Hawley remembers when he nearly sent one of the gunners over

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the side with our first charge at volley ball and the boxers who made a clean sheet and certainly the Tug-o-War team, which allowed an increase in numbers on the opponents end of the rope and did not succumb until that number reached twenty-six.

About twelve hours west of Gilbralter, the vessel stopped and everything went silent. I was awakened by a Merchant Marine Captain with whom I was sharing a cabin and he took me on deck. He then explained that in the even of the ship being torpedoed all the lights would go, so I had better get my bearings. I felt I needed more assurance than that. In the morning a Sunderland flew overhead and signalled "Can you proceed at four knots follow me?" (No secrets from a signals section sergeant). Back at Gibraltar we waited for repairs. But in due time we arrived at Gurrock and the ship's announcer declared Palestine Police Personnel will disembark first." One of the funniest sights was to see Luke Hannon with an immense trunk trying to stop a female porter taking it on her shoulder. We visited the Argyle Theatre that night to see a show in which Monsewer Eddie Gray was the Top Liner and our party received a right royal welcome from the audience.

After five years away from home it was wonderful to see my daughter, Leila riding a bicycle. When she saw me she fell off and then galloped to me flinging her arms around. After a short period at home, I had to make a visit to Hull and I changed trains at York. When passing over the footbridge inside the station, I was approached by a Military Police Staff Sergeant. "Where do you think you're going?" All military travel was forbidden except to those travelling to the continent. You've guessed it, I had chosen D-Day to travel. He took me to a Captain S.I.B. and I was asked "Where is your depot?" I replied quite correctly "Mount Scopus". He then said "Jerusalem?" and I said "Yes". I was then taken before a Colonel who asked if I was short of rations and the like and when I complained I could not get razor blades, I was escorted to the N.A.A.F.I. and handed a complete ration book and various other benefits. It was six months before the Crown Agents could get me back to Palestine. Quite a long leave and one to be remembered.

HAPPY SIMPSON

THE MAN HIMSELF



Photograph from Happy Simpson to prove he's wearing well.

From a letter dated 26th February, 1984 from Eric (Winnie) Sharp, 7/1 Ireland Street, Burwood, Victoria 3125, Australia.

I wonder how many remember the march we did in, I believe, the autumn of 1937 from the Jenin road to Attil village in the Tulkarm area. One evening about seven or eight of us were called out and with a company of, I think the Ulsters. We left Nablus and arrived at a spot on the Jenin road to the north of Silet edh Dhahr, at about 10 o'clock at night. Mr. Cafferata was in charge and gave us a short briefing to the effect that an armed gaing of Arabs was in Attil village with lookouts posted to the south, west and north of the village, but no lookouts on the east, because it was believed that no one could get through those hills in the night and the idea was that we would prove them wrong. Since there were no tracks, the A.D.C., then Mr. Foot (later The Lord Caradon and one of our Patrons—Ed.), would try to guide us by the stars. The only members of the party I can now remember were Lew Gilbey, Dunker and Gwynne, the rugby player. We set off across a nice piece of level ground and that was the last level ground we saw until dawn the next morning. There was no moon but the usual starlit sky.

We went down into our first wadi and straight up the other side. As soon as we got to the top it was straight down again and so on all night. I remember we had one break of about ten minutes. Going down it was so steep that in a couple of places I leaned back upon my heels and slid for six or seven feet and all around me I could hear others sliding. Going up another hill at one place I was pulled up by the man in front and I pulled up the man behind me and so on. Finally at some time before dawn we climbed to the top of a hill to see a house, black against the sky. Some of the party went into the village to find out where we were and it turned out we had arrived at Bal'a village which sits on the hill above Windy Corner on the Tulkarm-Nablus road and well known to most Nablus drivers of the time. It was a fairly easy walk from there to Attil but it was daylight when we got there. As we came near the village a man rode out on a horse away from us. Caff turned and said "Stop that man". As far as I was concerned it was an impossibility, but Gwynne was off like a hare and caught him. However he was a perfectly innocent villager and we found no trace of the gang in Attil at all. Later Mr. Cafferata congratulated us because no man fell out.

WINNIE SHARP

TO PALESTINE—THE FAST WAY

In the newsletter No. 1311, we read with interest the article "The Way to Jerusalem" by Onbashi. We may be wrong. But not all P.P. new arrivals from the U.K. arrived by sea and overland. At least nine recruits, including ourselves, arrived in Palestine by air on 18th October, 1946, we both have a feeling we might have been the only ones to get to Palestine in this way. Members of our party will remember it well, wherever they may be. The party consisted of ourselves (Reg Iggulden and P. Gill), Bill Aldcroft, Tony (Solo) Barrett, Dennis Coggan, Jimmy Judd, Bill Laidlaw, Tony Ward and one other whose complete name also escapes us but Roger comes to mind.

Our journey to Jerusalem began with two limousines leaving Millbank for Croydon Airport, we were not exactly "flush" as we did not expect air travel to last very long. I wonder what gave us that idea? The "airliner" turned out to be a De Havilland "Rapide" which was a biplane powered by four JAP twin blade airscrew engines. It cruised at about 100 mps plus. Some of our baggage went in the nose and the rest in the tail compartment. No smoking was allowed and should any of us require the use of the toilet at the rear, the information was passed up to the pilot so that he could trim the aircraft accordingly. Six single seats either side left three spares, one of which was occupied by the flight engineer or the radio operator, who very soon became redun-

dant in the control cabin according to the Captain, because during the flight he was called numerous and highly derogatory names, rather than his real Irish name of O'Reilly, as he was unable to raise any response from Paris, Cleremont-Ferrand, Marseilles, Nice, Rome, Naples or Palermo. Obviously it was a very inefficient wireless set. So our Irish friend ended up in the spare seat and in our company, while we continued our journey via Malta, Castel Benito, Marble Arch (Libya), Benghazi, el Adem, Alexandria and finally Lydda. It took eight days and after the first three, most of us were broke.

Most of our money disappeared early in Paris where we were forced to stop overnight through bad flying weather. A night on the town where we split into two parties. Some to the "Concert Mayol" and others to the "Folies Bergeres". Returning late to Le Bourget, we managed to find lodgings. The morning breakfast of ham and eggs was a mistake when we got the bill. Ferrand was only a refuelling stop. There was no night flying so that the B.O.A.C. lounge at Marseilles was all that was available. I do not recall leaving the airport or eating there, but apparently we all made remarks on the whiteness of the bread, when back in Britain we had all been munching away at that grey stuff. The mosquitos during the night fed very well however. On us, and their inflictions did not subside till long after our arrival at Jenin. It was very near to freezing in Paris at the time, but on the French Riviera it was the exact opposite so that after breakfast it was "off overcoats" and repacking of luggage before departing for Nice, where we refuelled once again.

With what seemed to be a school atlas on his knees, Tony, our Anglo-Indian pilot showed us the Italian coast, while a dejected Patrick O'Reilly sat in a rear seat. We were not too happy ourselves, as we realised that on arrival in Rome our alimentary requirements would need the support of the British Consulate. By bus from Campino Airport to the Albergo Realt via the Colosseum. Some nice rooms with the support of the British Consulate but they refused to pay for any alcohol! Bad flying weather next day gave us a further 24 hours on the town. Then we began our fifth day heading for Naples. During refuelling there, we were entertained by a local Italian pilot who proudly gave us a conducted tour of his large triple engined Junkers 87. Then it was all aboard and off to Palermo. The Irish radio operator was reinstated up front and began doing his best to make contact with the appropriate landing strip. I feel sure that everyone in the party will recall the conversation prior to his final banishment to the rear. To the question "Haven't you got Palermo yet?" he gave a feeble "I've got Brindisi". This brought fourth a string of oaths and the remark that "As we are not bound for Greece, it was b . . . dy useless and let the engineer come forward and have a go."

All through the trip, apart from playing cards on top of a suitcase placed in the gangway, it had all been highly entertaining. Despite "radio failure", we arrived in Palermo. While waiting army transport, we were thoroughly inspected, including the plane, by the whole airfield staff who tumbled out of some buildings en masse, together with their "Jibni Kabeer", portly and resplendant in his excessively gold braided and bemedalled uniform. A real comic opera character. We were finally whipped away into Palermo at high speed by a seemingly mad British corporal driving as if the devil himself was close behind, and the local citizens were not slow to demonstrate their disapproval. The return journey early the following morning was no less dramatic and we all came to the conclusion that he had either become involved with the local Mafia, or bandits were in this part of Sicily. He was not forthcoming about either or anything else for that matter. He had to concentrate upon his driving. Here the Hotel des Palmes was excellent and the British Consul again supported us under the same "rules".

The next hop was critical according to our pilot. With an inactive radio or radio operator, for that matter, and no coastline to follow, the trip to Malta relied on a clear sky and an effective compass, because if we missed seeing the islands, we would be metaphorically and literally "all at sea". He tended to throw the ball in our court. At that time we considered ourselves already to be in dire straights, so this was a minor problem. The chances of getting the radio corrected in Palermo were remote, and we were not in the mood to prolong our agony. So the word "Go" was unanimous. All was well and soon the Maltese Islands lay below and on landing at an R.A.F. field, we came under their wing, so to speak. When refuelled it was on to Castel Benito (Tripoli). All meals were supplied by the R.A.F. and served by German P.O.W.'s. "Solo" Barrett had more cash than most of us and we borrowed from him, which helped us out during the evening visit to the canteen. Morning came after a rough night under mosquito nets, not hung, but stretched over the bed heads, which made getting up during the night, tricky to say the least. Benghazi via "Marble Arch" was our next destination. In the desert we had to help refuel by hand. This we did by forming a chain and our "bird" was topped up with the use of the famous "Jerry cans", trundled out on a handcart and pulled out to the plane by a couple of Arabs. Because of this method of refuelling, the engineer had to devise something to earth the machine as a safety precaution. A further refuelling at Benghazi and then it was off once more into a heavy rainstorm. When we arrived over Tobruk, we headed south for El Adem and landed in the late afternoon. We left for Lydda via Alexandria on our eighth day and landed in Palestine in the afternoon, but it was not until early evening that police transport arrived in the shape of a 30 cwt truck to take us on to Ramleh Tegart. We were tired and not in the best of tempers by this time.

Our path to the front entrance was a maze of barbed wire and we can remember that one of the party carried an extremely large and ungainly portmanteau. To avoid it or the barbed wire from being destroyed, it finally got through on top of his head and returned by the same way the following morning. That night we slept under the stars, guarded by the T.A.C.'s. After an unexciting breakfast, an open three tonner brought us to our ultimate destination, Jenin Depot and straight under the shade of the pepper trees that were to be such a blessing during the following four weeks of drill periods on that memorable dusty parade ground. Of course, pay day for us was a long way off, therefore should recruits arrive on their "uppers", so to speak, and request a sub from their future remuneration was something quite unprecedented. Only to pass it all on to Messrs. Spinney almost immediately. We knew nothing of Abu Chitbook then. After days of enquiries, A.S.P. Featherstone, finally came up with a "few bob" that saw us through.

This method of recruit transportation to Palestine by the Crown Agents was, we believe, purely experimental and to our knowledge never repeated. We had had their moniesworth!

R. H. IGGULDEN (ex-B/Const. 2141)

and

P. R. GILL (ex-B/Const. 2137)

TOWN PATROLS

Foot patrols in Tulkarm were carried out in the same time honoured way adopted throughout the country; three shifts each of eight hours duration. During the daylight shifts the patrols usually comprised one British and one Palestine constable but at night two British constables carried out the duty. As usual during the early and afternoon shifts the men on duty were smartly dressed, during the summer in shirts and shorts. The shorts being replaced by slacks on the late shift. During the winter the dress was blue serge tunics and slacks, later replaced by khaki battle dress. At night dress was rather less formal, comfort and warmth being the main consideration as even in the summer the night could be very cold.

The town was always a hive of activity, particularly in the early morning; the greatest activity taking place in the market where fruit and vegetables were brought. Some for sale locally or to be snapped up by traders for transport to larger towns where perhaps a better price could be obtained. Produce for sale locally was piled in haphazard heaps around which sellers and their

clients haggled noisily over both quality and price, each seeking to get the best possible bargain. Here one was able to examine some of the poor, often grossly overlaid donkeys, many of which had horrible saddle sores. When a particularly bad case was discovered the poor animal and its owner were taken to the station for possible prosecution. In the town's main square, the noise was often deafening with bus drivers touting passengers to larger towns such as Nablus, Haifa, Jaffa or Jerusalem. Competing with even greater noise were the taxi drivers who augmented their vocal efforts with a continuous drumming of fists on their car doors. When one could stand the noise no longer it was necessary to call a halt to this form of competition and the touting would become a degree or two quieter, but once the patrol had disappeared from sight the noise would recommence with even greater vigour. This game at times, got out of hand resulting in measures somewhat sterner than a mere admonishment.

During the afternoon turn things became noticeably less hectic, as the temperature rose so the noise decreased; the shoppers dwindled from the busy morning stream to a mere trickle. Shopkeepers disappeared into the dark recesses of their premises probably to silently pray that no one would have the courage to brave the hot sun with the intention of entering into the sordid business of buying anything which would in any way disturb the rest they so badly needed after a busy morning of hard bargaining. As the heat of the afternoon diminished the town roused itself for one final burst of activity before the setting sun signalled time to shut up shop and the shutters came down one by one as each trader decided there was little hope of further profit. With the closing of the shops only the coffee houses remained open until a little later the town's one and only cinema opened its portals to a small audience which sat silently watching a long drawn out and dramatically posed Egyptian film accompanied by discordant music. The few women in the audience watched the show discreetly behind a lattice screen while their husbands enjoyed a much better view from the main body of the hall.

When the night patrol took over at ten o'clock there was little sign of life other than the coffee houses and the cinema and it was not long before the latter closed its doors and the only sound was a coffee house customer calling for more charcoal for the slowly dwindling cow pat of local tobacco on his narghili. It was usually at the coffee house in the main square that the town patrol would meet the night duty officer where a glass of hot sweet tea would be slowly sipped before the last place of entertainment was finally closed. There would be a further check on the padlocked shutters of the shops before the duty officer would return to the station and the town was left to the patrol and the local ghaffieh. Only the piard dogs remained silently searching through the rubbish, greedily looking for scraps of food.

My first night patrol was done in the company of B/Const. 2066 A. H. (Smudger) Smith who was a conscientious policeman and one could not have a better man to learn from. It was a great shock and tragedy when he was killed by Hamad Zawateh during a night patrol in Nablus a year or so later. However not all the more senior constables were so meticulous in the performance of their duties and I have a very clear memory of a tour of night duty with someone who shall remain nameless and who had a very different idea of carrying out a night patrol. On that particular occasion which was our first night together, we observed all the normal procedures of checking padlocks on the shuttered shops and having met the night duty officer, followed by our break for refreshment at the station, we resumed our patrol. Following another brief look round the soukh my mentor led me off the main part of the square into a small side street leading into a small square in which a large taxi was parked. We approached the vehicle and my companion tried one of the rear doors which to my surprise was unlocked. Without hesitation he entered and motioned me to get into the front. He then stretched out in the rear and made himself comfortable. This appeared to be quiet a normal procedure for him for he was soon gently snoring behind me whilst I spent the rest of the night desperately trying to keep awake and not at all happy with this turn of events being so new to the force.

As dawn broke we were quietly wakened by the taxi driver who brought us each a glass of hot sweet tea which we sipped quickly, then alighted from the warm taxi to stretch our legs and resume our patrol. On reaching the main road we were astonished to see considerable police activity outside a shop on the edge of the soukh which had been broken into during the time we had been warmly ensconced in the taxi just round the corner. To my mind we were in trouble with a capital "T". I could think of no valid explanation for our failure to prevent or detect this crime, and on arrival at the scene it was obvious that the thieves had spent a considerable time in clearing almost everything the shop contained. It must have involved the use of several camels or donkeys to take away all the loot. My companion was equal to the situation however and showed no signs of the panic I felt. He explained our absence by saying he had been given information that a load of contraband was being brought into town and we laid in ambush for half the night in the hope of catching the smugglers. He concluded by admitting that in the light of events we had obviously been set up. The robbery had been discovered by the town ghaffieh, who being unable to locate the town patrol had hastened to the station to report the matter there.

Needless to say for the remainder of our week's tour of duty we took no sleep in the comfort of a taxi but patrolled the town with such zeal that nothing moved in the soukh without our know-

ledge. Even the poor piard dogs had little time to carry out their customary unhurried search through the rubbish littering the streets and the padlocked shutters were given far greater attention than they had probably received for quite a long time.

BOB ROWBERRY

OUR ANCIENT BILLETS

Over the years there was an enormous number of police stations, posts, prison establishments, garages, headquarters buildings, stores, places of police recreation and billets in Palestine. In 1920 the police force acquired from the Turks less than 30 police properties and by 1947 the number had increased to nearly 200. Most of our members will recall the large number of Tegart "fort" constructed buildings which we all called Tegart buildings but which the Government of Palestine designated to its very last days, as Wilson Brown buildings. It is not clear which was the first Tegart to be opened for police use, but Silet edh Dhahr post in Samaria is thought to be the last and between the first and the last there was a period of time of only four years or so. Nazareth was the biggest of them all and probably the ugliest, a sight to make conservationists hopping mad, particularly in a town with such great religious redolence. But Beit Dajjan in Lydda District was also about as unattractive as man could conceive. Yet both buildings were at one time thought to be overcrowded. But other Tegarts proved quite attractive and nestled quite naturally and pleasantly in the hills beside a roadway leading to somewhere or other and were a reassurance that law and order sometime prevailed. In a way the government investment in its Tegart programme was one of the most sensible ways that it could have spent its money.

The Tegarts successfully withstood sniping rifle fire as well as the mine laying tactics of terrorists. The reinforced concrete walls were sufficiently thick and well designed to remain largely unimpaired by the nasty banging devices that terrorists sometimes planted against them. Probably thanks to Wilson Brown and his Public Works Department and advisers, the concrete did not suffer from a bad mix by rascally contractors, as happened in India and elsewhere. Our Tegarts could take a lot of punishment. Many were attacked in the years 1944 to 1948 and one has in mind Qalqiliya, Beit Dajjan and Shafr 'Amr. There were others and the list does not include the big attacks upon urban buildings. Even little posts such as Givat Olga and Kafr Vitkin somehow survived really nasty attacks in which explosives were used. Unfortunately always bad for the horses. The finest continental military architects used by

the Crusaders would have approved of Sir Charles Tegart's basic design, particularly those buildings with two defence towers sited in opposite corners. By and large there was good defensive field of fire and where there were some suspicious areas of dead ground, this was usually only apparent to the defenders.

But it was not always like that in Palestine. The Tegarts came to form the principal working area in a policeman's life in rural Palestine. It was his place of duty, his place of record as well as his billet. Most of our members will come to recall that the Tegart was his home from home when duty was done, so what happened to the housing needs of the force between say 1926 and 1939? Here a very different story emerges. Here memories recall a motley collection of private houses that were simply commandeered in the town and suburbs and often in the rural areas as well. Some of these, by all accounts, were extraordinarily attractive places with spacious rooms, tiled floors, magnificent views but always open to the possibility of being attacked by an angry mob, or single dissident. Other such places were said to be poky, stifling, dark, dank, freezing, and generally uniniviting and unhappy places of abode. Simply because that was all that was available in the area at the time. The descriptions handed down to us from members of the force, long since passed on, are curious and amusing. One had a rat infestation problem that defied cure from the municipality. One a converted bordello that had witnessed the ravages of naughty sailors in Turkish times, one was owned by a distant landlord who disappeared to Lebanon (circa 1922) and for years the I.G. was unable to pay the rent (surely a most improbable story). One turned out to be holy property and was evacuated so that the claimant Waqf authorities could reunite it with the mosque next door. One was struck by lightning and one disappeared in an earthquake. Such tales endure and add colour to the problems of billeting the force in the 1920s at least.

Many of these private houses became better known simply because they did get attacked and sometimes the occupants had to be withdrawn. In Jenin, the Abdul Hadi billet, so named after the famous family which owned big chunks of the surrounding area and evidently the billet concerned, was attacked in this way and was in many respects an unsafe house. Many police billets in Galilee had to be evacuated and policemen found themselves temporarily in army cantonments. In a sense we do not know enough about these ancient celibate lodgings of the British Section of the force. Where for instance did chaps actually live in the 1930s in places such as Hebron, Gaza, Ramleh, Tiberias, Safed and Acre for example? Before Tegart came along. Some of our old timers will know the answer; but can they actually say where?—in terms of street, location, and whether near to or above the police station. Questions of that kind need to be answered.

It is not much easier in the cities to discover where we all lived. In Tel Aviv we know there was a billet in Brenner Street and another in Hashoker Street. We do not know when these places were opened. We hear of such places in Jaffa as Carasso Billet and the Sheikh Muzapha building, places so obvious to Jaffawis but casually anonymous to the rest of us. How many such places were hidden away in Jaffa and known to just a few initiates who were posted there? Haifa is a little more open in this respect. Almost all Northern District men, or to be really updated, Haifa District men, knew of the Victor Khayat buildings in Kingsway, slap bang in the centre of town. It housed on its many floors above the District and Divisional police offices, men who staffed Central Police Station, the Piquet and some others. The building took its name from the ancient family that owned down town Haifa at the time. How many of us remember the entrance hall and the British Constable posted to the billet diary trying to spot the collar numbers from those passing in and out of the building, to and from duty, to and from the smallest private errand, to and from a cafe appointment or the luckiest of fellows who actually had a "date". Whenever the front door slammed, as it frequently did, the whole building shook and the noise vibrated through the structure so that on the uppermost floors it felt as though the door was just beneath our heads as we tried to sleep to the accompaniment of the piano noises from the Angel Cafe just opposite. What a hell of a shake up everyone must have suffered when the terrorist mine went off on the ground floor in 1947. But up on Mount Carmel there were some charming residences put aside for British Police. They were private houses with gardens and views beyond wordly comparison. Were there others hidden away in Haifa that most of us know nothing about? We hear of Boutagi Billet, Neve Shan'an Billet, Eldorado Billet. Which was which in Haifa? Meanwhile only members of the Port and Marine could actually find their billet. They were safe from process servers, paternity orders and debt collectors from Arab tailors because no one knew where they were. For the record it would be nice if this association knew. We shall not pass it on.

The police post in Nathanya was a private house and its billet facilities incorporated into the same building. As a rule only one British Policeman was in actual residence and he could live like a lord. I have in mind a succession of sergeants: Seidal, Young and Boyd all there in my day. But where was the pre 1939 billet of its head station at Tulkarm? Worth keeping tags on the location before it is too late. But Jerusalem brings out another batch of billet names and although on the whole these were better known and were homes for a greater number of our chaps the actual location in terms of street addresses is not shown on any of our records, when perhaps they should be. Watson House in the Old City has been described a couple of times and delightfully illustrated by Michael Hook, but in which narrow confined street was

PALESTINE POLICE—O.C.A.

BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

(Registered Charity No. 282492)

Objects: To relieve need, hardship and distress amongst members of the association, their widows and other dependents.

Chairman:

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Details of members of the former Palestine Police Force, or their dependents, now in reduced circumstances and requiring assistance, should be sent in the first instance to the Branch Secretary or where an O.C.A. Branch does not exist, to the Benevolent Association Secretary. All cases will be dealt with in strict confidence.

Funds are essential for this very needy cause. Donations should be sent to either the Chairman or Secretary of the Benevolent Association, or to any member of the Central Council or Branch Secretary for onward transmission.

Members who wish to pay regular donations by way of Deed of Covenant should write to the Secretary of the Benevolent Association.

it? Rawdat, I daresay we are all familiar with, even under its better known title as overlooking the First Station of the Cross. Generali is known to many, but could they find it now? More obscure would be Musrara and Mahne, the latter somewhere in Meashearim Quarter. Many men lived above the police station in Jerusalem but the enormous overflow of men, coming and going in the city, led to difficulties in accommodation, a problem that was never properly overcome since the beginning of the 1930s.

Doubtless all this will be lost in the kaleidoscope of Palestine life. In fact many would think of it as a great deal of water under the bridge, yet there remains a little thought nagging the mind. Where did we all live? If this produces a lot of correspondence, Onbashi needs a rest so don't expect instant replies.

ONBASHI

OBITUARY NOTICES

It is with sadness and a great sense of personal loss that I report the death on 2nd March, 1984 of Basil St. John Hickman, C.P.M. Basil had survived a series of strokes over a period of ten years until at last he succumbed just a few weeks before his 70th birthday. Those of his old friends and colleagues who remember him from days gone by as a bright and happy-go-lucky individual will not be surprised to hear that he maintained his cheerfulness throughout and that his philosophy and determination to enjoy life sustained him to the end. After serving in the Northamptonshire Regiment as a 2nd Lieutenant, Basil joined the force in 1935. When at the I.G.'s initial interview Roy Spicer was so delighted to find a member of the force of an even smaller stature than his own, he immediately nicknamed him "Tiddler"; and "Tiddler" he was to all and sundry from that time onwards. He was a fine all-round sportsman and he represented the Palestine Police at Cricket and in later years the Mauritius Police at Hockey and the Singapore Police at Tennis. He was proud of his place in the Force XI and used to tell with a mixture of sadness and humour of finally being dropped from the side after running out his captain who also happened to be his Inspector General.

"Tiddler" and I first met while attending a refresher course at Mount Scopus in 1943 and from then on our police careers ran on parallel lines. We were appointed A./A.S.P.s together and a few months later transferred as Superintendents in Mauritius. In Mauritius, Basil was my "Best Man" when Kathleen and I married in 1945. Later we both served in the Far East, Basil in Singapore and I in the neighbouring Federation of Malaya. After retirement we mostly lived within a few miles of each other and used to meet often.

The funeral at the West Midland Crematorium, Wellesbourne, Warwickshire on 7th March was attended by some three dozen relatives and friends and the coffin was draped with the association flag and the Holy City was played by the organist as a final tribute. The association was represented by Les Faulkes of the Midlands Branch and Tom Urwin and myself of the Southern & Western Counties Branch. Bill Cowan and Dick Shelmedine, Basil's old comrades in the Singapore Police were also in attendance.

On behalf of members everywhere I have conveyed to Basil's widow, Paddy, our heartfelt sympathy and to her children, Penny and Roger, the assurance that to us there will never be another "Tiddler".

CHARLES GREENSTREET

One of our most respected, long serving and best known old comrades died on 27th January, 1984, quietly at his home. I refer to Geoffrey Harold Rance, B.E.M., K.P.M. He was 75. Geoffrey joined the Palestine Police in April 1933, when we first met and became friends. During his service in Palestine he spent a great deal of time in Jerusalem, Tulkarm, Nablus, Gaza and finally back to Jerusalem. In 1935 as British Constable 1185, he was awarded the British Empire Medal for his gallantry in an action against an armed gang in the Jenin hills. (London Gazette dated 23.6.1936.) Much later in his service, as a Deputy Superintendent he was awarded the Kings Police Medal (K.P.S.M. etc.) for distinguished service. (London Gazette dated 10.6.1948.) Also in 1946 he was severely wounded by terrorists in Jerusalem and as a result had a leg amputated. Despite this grave disability he returned to staff duties in Police Headquarters where he worked until the termination of the mandate.

After leaving Palestine he held senior police appointments in Malaya, the Bahamas and in Aden and then when he retired from the Colonial Police Service he settled down in Chichester, West Sussex. He worked for some years in the Central Office of Information in London. The funeral service took place at Chichester on 31st January, 1984 which at his own request was a private family affair. Afterwards he was cremated. We extend our deepest sympathy to his widow, Jane and all her family in the loss of a very popular officer.

KENNETH (GEORGE) HADINGHAM

It was with very great sorrow that I learned of the death of my friend Geoffrey Rance, B.E.M., K.P.M. at his home in Chichester. He died from cancer. Geoffrey had been ill for some time and had been in bed for the latter part and nursed by his

wife, Jane. Throughout his illness he had borne up bravely and uncomplainingly and had set a wonderful example to all his friends. Geoffrey was born in India where he spent the early part of his life. After the First World War, when sea travel became possible again, he came home to school in England and on leaving joined an insurance company. But tiring of the hum drum existence he decided to join the Palestine Police in 1933. Within two years he had earned the B.E.M. for his part in battle against an Arab gang in the Jenin hills in 1935. I first met him in the German Colony, Jerusalem in 1936 where he was extremely popular and took part in most sporting activities. I have a photograph before me of Geoffrey and Paddy Kirwan, together with Johnny Meikle and "Spud" Creed starting off for a Jerusalem District rugger match which Geoffrey was to referee. They all looked extremely fit and pleased with life, despite the constant "stand-to's" and extra duties we were performing at that time.

When he was promoted to A.S.P. he was transferred to Nablus and soon after leaving that place he married Jane, then a nursing sister stationed at Sarafand. Much later when he filled a senior post at Police Headquarters, he was shot down by terrorists in 1946 while walking to his office to answer an emergency. From this he lost a leg. He afterwards became Commissioner of Police in the Bahamas and also saw service in Aden and Malaysia, before accepting a government post in London. Geoffrey never forgot a friend and he had been delighted when he received a visit some time ago from the late Lew Gilbey who was with us in the German Colony. He had heard from "Rymer" at Christmas and this gave him very great pleasure. Through his troubles he was ably supported by Jane, who was a tower of strength to him and who cheerfully cared for him through thick and thin. His son Peter, and Peter's children were his great joy in life. I personally will always look back with gratitude to the sound advice he unstintingly gave me when sought and I value the friendship of one of the finest men I have known. Our deepest sympathy goes to Jane and his son, Peter and to his sister Doreen.

JOHN BASKETT

There must be an enormous number of members who will be sorry to hear that James (Edgar) Wallace died in Royal Leicester Infirmary in 14th March this year. It was one of those deaths that sent a ripple around the association at once betokening the esteem and popularity with which he was held in our minds and hearts. I do not suppose for a moment that I am the best person to be writing these notes, and someone else may decide to add to them in some future issue, but I cannot let pass the thought that as we go to press, a suitable record be made at once and this it is. Jim joined the force on 11th November, 1938 and it was within hours, rather than days that he collected the nickname "Edgar" in the

steps of the famous author of that name. This stuck to him in P.P. circles for the remainder of his life. He became British Constable 1762 and later reached the rank of sergeant. He served in several parts of Palestine but must surely be best known as a Depot Instructor. After Palestine he went to Kenya and following that South Africa before coming to the United Kingdom, just a few years back. His last home being 21 Norman Court, Whatton Road, Kegworth, Derbyshire DE7 2DT. Many of us have watched his daughter, Gloria, a beautiful lady grow up. She is herself a very active supporter of this association. Now Mrs. Robertson and living in 24 Morack Road, Vermont, Victoria 3133, Australia, where her husband Douglas is an airline pilot. But it so happens that Douglas Robertson was on a course in England at the time of his father-in-law's sudden illness and death, so that there was someone to keep an eye on family arrangements. It cannot have been easy for him or for Gloria at the time. On 5th February, Alf Horton managed to visit him in hospital and we are grateful for that news. Alf may have been the last old comrade to have seen Jim alive. Jim (Edgar) leaves a widow and to her as well as to his family we extend our deepest sympathy.

TED HORNE

An "Old Timer" in our force was Harry Conway, O.B.E. and I regret to report that he died on 12th March, 1984 after a lingering illness. As far as can be ascertained he was the original British Constable 545 in Palestine and made his mark by an easy and fluent approach to Arabic, a language he came to regard with great respect. He then spent a short time in the West Indies before joining the Aden administration where he made his mark. I cannot do better than quote a notice in The Times "He knew and loved Arabia and its peoples and for a lifetime in the service knew also his duty and did it. Free of ambition or the desire for wealth, a simple man who found his pleasure in walking the Dorset hills and a minor poet of outstanding talent." In this country he settled into the Dorset village of Childe Okeford where he more or less lived at one end, while another P.P., Dai Davis lived at the other. Like bookends. Harry was a bachelor but in his day had the wide respect of many British and Arab friends, many of whom still ask after "Mr. Conway" from time to time, but in recent years we have had to guardedly reply that he was increasingly unwell. His qualities as a policeman and as an administrator became obvious, but in his own quiet and unassuming manner, many of us became his pupils. He clung tenaciously to something in life that many have lost. His passing will be deeply lamented by all who knew him.

JOHNNY BASKETT

It seems to have fallen to me to inform readers that our former colleague, friend and comrade A. J. Docherty died in early December 1983 in Malta. John served in Palestine from 1939 to 1946 when he was transferred on promotion to Uganda and there he remained until his retirement at the time Uganda gained its independence. He and his family then settled in England for a short time before he was advised on medical grounds to seek the drier climate of the Mediterranean. He is survived by his loving wife, Audrey whom he met and married in Uganda and by Michael a devoted son of whom any parent would be proud. John was a man of many talents but because of his quiet and modest nature these were not widely recognised. His first love was music and he would have taken up the piano professionally but for an accident which resulted in the loss of a finger. Nevertheless he played superbly. He also learned languages with ease and played football for the force. If all this is not enough to fill any man's cup to the brim, John was an exceedingly brave man as well and was awarded the Silver Medal for Gallantry from the Society for the Protection of Life against fire, when he tried to rescue Palestinian Constable Kamel el Alami from the burning wireless room at Gaza. He managed to get the Palestinian out of the conflagration but he died in hospital from burns. Everyone thought the award well earned. He was a good policeman, intelligent companion yet always with an engaging sense of humour. Above all he was a gentleman whom one looked forward to meeting and regretted leaving. His many friends will be much the poorer for his passing.

ARTHUR WILTSHIRE

Information came from several sources that A. E. (Albert) Roy, formerly of 19 Vincent Square, Wood Green, London, N.12 died in the night of 30th/31st January, 1984 in North Middlesex Hospital, Edmonton, from cancer. He was 76. I regret that I do not have his Palestine service details to hand but can only say that Albert had many friends in Palestine and in more recent years has had some contact with this editor on matters of mutual interest. A cremation service was conducted at St. Marylebone Crematorium, East End Road, Finchley on Friday, 3rd February at which Messrs. T. J. Shand (Association Chairman), J. H. Foster (General Secretary) and S. W. (Micky) Hills were present to represent the association. There is no widow but Albert left two sons and to both of them we can but say. Your father was widely respected among our fraternity. He himself would have been pleased to know that.

EDITOR

It is with deep personal sadness that I received the news of the death of Douglas F. Johnson of 1 Somner Close, Canterbury, Kent who has suffered from a heart disease during the last year and who passed away in early April 1984. He joined the Palestine Police towards the end of World War II and served in Haifa. After returning to the U.K. he joined the Kent Constabulary and served for most of his time in the Traffic Section. He retired only a year or two ago and was a well known person in Canterbury. I should point out that he was an active and useful member of the South Eastern Counties Branch of this association. His funeral took place on 13th April and the association was well represented by the following old comrades:— John and Jean Pullman, Monty Banks, Harry Gambrill, Ian How, Freddie Edwards, Jimmy James, David Niven, Mrs. Evelyn Church, Ron Pemble, Harry Skinner, Les Stelfox and myself (Cabby Walter). Apart from that excellent turnout, the Crematorium Chapel at Barham was full with mourners standing in the aisle and in the entrance hall. I learned while I was there that Doug was the proud member of the Cricket Umpires Association. To his widow, Joy, we extend every sympathy.

CABBY WALTER

It was dreadful to hear that yet another old comrade has passed away—namely “Duggie” Johnson of Canterbury on Friday, 6th January. I first met him in Haifa in early 1947 when we were both serving in armoured cars with H.O.P. I remember him as being a first class driver and having a cheerful nature. He was very popular with all armoured car crews. He also had one necessary qualification for membership of H.O.P.—to be a little mad! He must have been on one of the last boats home, because I recall he was still in Haifa when I left in late May 1948. I next saw him in August 1950 when I joined the Kent County Constabulary—he then being an old hand with two years service. During our service we had no great contact and he retired, I think, in 1973 after 25 years of unblemished service. Our last meeting was a year ago at a P.P. Branch Meeting in Canterbury which he organised most ably. As in all our infrequent meetings, Duggie seemed ageless. He liked to look back on the years and I know he was proud to have served in the P.P. His loss is a severe wrench to me as it will be to all who knew him in Palestine.

JIMMY JAMES

It is my duty to report the death of “Jock” Duffy, former British Sergeant 34 of at Deniliquin, New South Wales in March 1984 at the age of 67. Jock joined the force on 12th May, 1939 and after the Stand Down, went on to serve in the Hong Kong Police before settling in Western Australia. Sometimes it seemed that his whole mind was in and on Palestine. He perpetually lived

for P.P. memories which was his constant delight. But in more recent years his health began to suffer and it is not long ago, that his family helped with a move to New South Wales. He was the loved father of Margaret, Kathleen and Irene and is now at Rest. We shall miss a fine old comrade.

JOHN STOREY

I regret to have inform everyone that Jock Duffy died on Thursday, 22nd March and was buried four days later on 24th March in Dtnilquin, where he died. He had been ill for a long time, starting with a stroke some eight or nine years ago. We shall miss his rallying cry of “Up Thee”, “Up Thee” and his one line delivery of “Some enchanted evening”, at our gatherings. His vintage in Palestine was 1939-1948 and will be remembered chiefly as Boarding Officer in Port and Marine under Frank Horsburgh and Brian (Skipper) Fox. Others in Haifa will recall his robust tactics on the soccer field. Later he served at Jenin and in Nazareth. He served in the Hong Kong force from 2nd August, 1948 (The day he arrived) until 1967. He retired from that force with the rank of Chief Inspector and was awarded the Colonial Police Long Service Medal in 1957 with a clasp in 1964. Finally he received the Colonial Police Medal in 1967 all of which is evidence of his loyal, meticulous and gallant service in that force. We send our condolences to his three lovely daughters.

ARTHUR NEW

I am sorry to have to report that W. J. (Billy) Cameron passed away in Stirling in late March after returning from Tanzania. He died from Malaria and Jaundice. Bill Cameron was at one time Force Armourer in Palestine and then after the Stand Down, he wandered about a bit, serving in such places as Dubai and then Nigeria in the world of engineering. In more recent years he had worked in a London based company connected with Tanzania. Only a little while ago he called upon me and announced he was going to take up another contract in Abu Dhabi. This it appears was not to be. He was a Scot and it was in his native Scotland that he died in sudden and sad circumstances. I was able to attend the funeral and there met another old comrade Ken Smith, former B/Const. 909 who is not a member of the association. He had served in Western Police Station, Haifa 1946/48. Bill's employers were represented by a Mr. Alan Dawson the personnel officer who stated that his father was a former P.P. A small world. For the moment I am at present without words and deeply shocked at the loss of an old friend.

ALBERT PARENT

The sudden death of William Jaimeson (Billy) Cameron of 40 Stirling Road, Tullibody by Alloa, Clackmannanshire at the

young age of 55 was a shock indeed. He joined the Palestine Police in 1946 and served at Jenin which is where I first met him and where he was unfortunately struck down with meningitis and nearly died. However he came fighting back and transferred to Headquarters in Jerusalem as an armourer. He was a true Scottish Highlander in every sense and became a well known figure in Palestine wearing his famous Cameron kilt in off duty hours. On disbandment he returned to the highlands as a sheep farmer then as a blacksmith at Kilninver near Oban. I stayed with him on a number of occasions and had great pleasure in seeing him throw the hammer (He was a powerful and immensely strong man) in several highland games and he became well known on the West Coast through his hammer throwing and wrestling.

It was in the early "seventies" that he commenced working overseas, first in the Middle East and laterly on the West Coast of Africa finally with Balfour Beatty (International) with its Tanzania connections. Billy Cameron was an extremely likeable and fine man and very proud of being a clansman of the Cameron Clan of Errick. He will be sorely missed by his wife, Edna, four daughters and son, Robert. His funeral was at Tullibody on 22nd March and those present have been recorded already. To his widow and family we offer our deepest and sincere sympathy. We have lost a loyal and gallant comrade.

GERALD (DODGER) GREEN

I regret to report the death on 25th February, 1984 at Barnby Dun, nr. Doncaster, South Yorkshire DN3 1EP of G. W. (Bob) Barber, aged 75. He died from a stroke. A short time previous to his death he had been admitted to hospital following a slight stroke then after a short stay was allowed to return home. When the second attack took place, he did not regain consciousness. He joined the force 4th April, 1931 and climbed his way from British Constable to A.S.P.. He served with me at Hebron during the troubled times of 1936 when he drove our station tender on night patrols along the Jerusalem-Hebron-Beersheba road often the target of the local sportsmen safely concealed in the hills. Before that he was in Gaza and drove a tender for the camel corps in Beersheba area, so that the creatures could have fodder at fixed points. Later than all this he served in the Jerusalem Traffic Section and ended up in charge there. Many years afterwards he became very well known to London P.P. when he was licensee of a public house in Ladbroke Road, also a home from home for the off duty C.I.D. from Notting Hill Police Station just opposite. Here he spun tales of what policework was really like and was widely respected. But then he moved to Yorkshire and few saw much of him in the last five years or so.

At his funeral service Les Seaton, my wife and myself represented the association. This took place on 1st March at Barnby Dun Parish Church and most members of his scattered family were able to attend. This included his daughter Diana from the Outer Hebrides and a daughter from his second marriage from the U.S.A. His son, Geoffrey from Suffolk, took in hand most of the funeral arrangements. I felt he should know that his father, a brave and resourceful policeman was held in wide esteem by his comrades.

BUCK REEVES

It is doubtful whether many readers will recall Naftali Rabinovitz. He joined the force in 1920 and was one of the first Jewish officers to be promoted to senior rank (Acting Assistant Commandant—later Acting Assistant Superintendent). He died in February 1983 and a notice in the Jerusalem Post dated 13th February points out that he was buried on Friday 10th. Naftali was born in 1896 in Cita which is near the Russian (Mongolian) and Chinese border and managed to get to Palestine in World War I. Cossie, Howerd Beard, Alan Saunders and David Wainright would all have known him of course, but his passing must not go unnoticed by we who joined the force, after he left it. We are indebted to Eric (Winnie) Sharp for the information.

EDITOR

I am sorry to have to report the death of an old comrade, one Charles Walter (Chuck) Arnold of 17 Limefield Avenue, Brierfield, Burnley, Lancashire BB9 5DG who died in Burnley General Hospital on 17th February, 1984. He had been poorly for some time with a nervous neuro disease and had been admitted to hospital a month previous in mid-January. I managed to call and see him on the Wednesday just two days before he died. The end came very quickly.

Chuck joined the Palestine Police on 23rd August, 1942 after service in the army from October 1939. I do not know a great deal of his actual service in the force but on leaving Palestine he worked at a local mill, then spent twelve years on security work in Burnley from which he retired in 1981 on his 65th birthday. I have met his wife, now widowed, Annie and it is clear to me that he was a much loved husband and father and fiercely proud of his Palestine Police service. All his friends will surely mourn his passing and our sympathy goes to his widow, his daughter, Pat and sons, Peter and John. A cremation service took place at Burnley on Wednesday, 22nd February and I was able to represent the Association. A floral tribute was sent on behalf of the O.C.A.

PETER HORNBY

It is with profound sorrow that I report the death after a short illness of former British Inspector James Meir Gellatly of 39 Unity Terrace, Perth PH1 2BG on 28th February last at the age of 74. Jim joined the force in November 1930 and after leaving Mount Scopus served first in Jaffa area, then in Haifa and after that Jerusalem, where he spent much time as a law instructor at the Depot. In 1939, he met his wife Margaret when he was at Port Said in order to meet a party of recruits and she was on the same ship while travelling to Jerusalem to take up a nursing position with the Government Hospital. They married in the Scoot Memorial Kirk in October 1940. Recently he made a handsome donation towards the plaque that was dedicated in that church only last autumn.

After 16½ years of dedicated service to the force, Jim returned to his native Scotland where he set up business in Perth from which he retired a few years ago. As a very young and smart British Constable, Jim can be seen in the lower photograph, facing page 224 in the book A Job Well Done (back row, 6th place from the left). There was a cremation ceremony in Perth and a large contingent of Scottish Branch members were present to honour his passing. The P.P. flag was draped across the bier which is something that was much appreciated by Margaret. At this time our deepest sympathy goes to her and sons, Ian and Andrew and beloved grandchildren. To them he will be sorely missed, while to the rest of us, we have lost an upright, loyal and dedicated comrade.

JIMMY LINDSAY

I regret to have to inform readers that Reginald Fullbrook Townsend, M.M., C.P.M. a former Deputy Superintendent of Police in Palestine died on 21st March, 1984. Reg Townsend (whose last address is regretfully not to hand—Ed.) was in the army for a number of years and was proud to have served in the Queen's Westminsters one of London's most prestigious Territorial Regiments. At some stage of his service he was awarded the Military Medal which is a well earned award for bravery in the face of the enemy. Our records reveal the choice of two dates when he arrived in Palestine. One record shows him as joining the British Gendarmerie 19th February, 1922, and the other as joining the British Section of the police 17th July, 1926. Perhaps both are correct. He was an A.S.P. by 1937 and a D.S.P. by 1941. It is not clear when he left the force but was still serving as late as 1945. In June 1942 he was awarded the Colonial Police Medal for Meritorious Service. I am given to understand that he was particularly well known as a British Inspector in Gaza from about 1932. By 1938 he was in Nazareth during the difficult times of the Arab troubles.

As to his private life and the latter years of his time on this earth, I am not the best person to comment. I can say that for various reasons, he was regarded in very high esteem by those who were closest to him in Palestine. This counted for a great deal. His passing leaves a wide gap in our memories and is to be deeply regretted.

EDITOR

It is with regret that I report the death of former British Constable 2324 Gerald Huxley at the age of 65. After leaving Palestine he joined the Metropolitan Police and served for a long time at Peckham and New Scotland Yard before retiring with 30 years service. He was a single man living at Vanbrugh Park, Blackheath, London, S.E.3. His cremation service took place at Beckenham and the association was represented by C. A. B. (Cabby) Walter, Ted Heading, S. P. (Sid) Johnson, R. Alexander and S. W. (Micky) Hills. To his sisters who live in Manchester we tender our deep and sincere sympathy.

MICKY HILLS

FURTHER TO OBITUARY NOTICES ALREADY GIVEN

Further to the notice of death for the late W. T. (Titch) Cullingham on 24th January, 1984 as given in the last issue. Readers may like to know that a generous contingent of his former comrades were present at the funeral service which took place at Eastbourne, East Sussex on 31st January, 1984. They included: Maurice Clarke, Walter Gibbs, John Bevan and his wife, Fred Edwards and his wife, Mike Burrows, Albert Blash, Brian Stockwell and myself Mick Hills. If there were others not recorded, then it is because I was unable to get their names. May I add to John Bevan's remarks in his obituary notice, that we all send our deepest sympathy to his widow and family.

MICKY HILLS

I would also like to add my deep sorrow when I heard of the death of W. T. (Titch) Cullingham. We served together in Beer-sheba where, as Divisional Inspector, his staunch imperturbability and genial good nature contributed greatly to the smooth functioning of the service. To his widow and family I extend my sincere condolences on behalf of us all.

MICHAEL HANKIN-TURVIN

It was with deep regret that I learned of the death of W. (Bill) Simmons, mentioned in the last issue. His sister (Mrs. Millie Gray)

telephoned me shortly before Christmas to tell me the news. I first met him in the Mount Carmel Billet, Haifa in 1943 and while there, he taught me to ride a motor cycle (Twin Triumph), and I also joined the traffic section. After all those years we met for a few brief hours at the Crest Hotel, Runcorn last year. Several photographs were taken and we planned to meet again but alas it was not to be. Those members who served with Bill will remember his pleasant unruffled nature, always ready to help others. He was a credit to the force and I would like to join with others in offering my condolences to his son, Neil and family, also to Bill's brother Harry and sister Millie.

FRED HERON

In addition to all that has been said already, I would add that I first met Cecil Kennedy when stationed in Jaffa-Tel Aviv 1933-34 on my first (two year) term of service in the police. He was always such a good companion. Cheerful and a natural mixer and not least a convinced Christian who made the practice of his religion an important part of his whole life. An example to me for one. Also he was a conscientious policeman. When I rejoined the force in 1940, we renewed our friendship and I was able to meet his wife, Esther with her very pleasing nature and kindness. Of later years, we met but rarely, but but I always felt it a privilege to know this good man and to be his friend.

KEN JUDD

I sailed to Palestine with the late Jim Casserly in the Viceroy of India and then we served together at Manshieh Police Station for some three years. Jimmy was later transferred to Lydda District D.I.B. and I was subsequently transferred to the same office in 1943. Jimmy had the softest and most sincere voice I have ever heard in a man and during the years I knew him, he never once raised his voice in anger. At a personal tribute he was at all times one of nature's true gentlemen and will be sadly missed by all who had the honour to serve with and know him.

TAFFY HOBBS

ERRATUM

With regard to the obituary notice for the late James Casserly, shown on Page 62 of the last issue. Duggie Fairfoul left it to us to insert the date of joining the force and inadvertently we gave it as 1943. According to the Official Nominal Roll of (December 1945 in our possession) Jimmy Casserly joined 3rd June, 1939. The print is exceedingly small and the wrong year was transposed as the particulars were read across the sheet. This is regretted.

Several members wrote in sorrow rather than anger, not the least of whom is Taffy Hobbs who adds his own tribute in this issue. It ought to be pointed out here that Taffy (and James) sailed from U.K. in November 1938. We cannot explain why the roll shows Jimmy as joining the force eight months afterwards.

EDITOR

SHORT NOTICES OF DEATH

We have received information that R. M. Nicholson, a former member of the force and a member of this association who lived at "The Park", Radcliffe, Amble, Northumberland WE65 0JD passed away suddenly on 21st January, 1984. Former colleagues will regret his death. One more of us has passed on quietly.

Former B/Const. 760 (1946 vintage), Samuel Arthur Collison (address not to hand—Ed.) died on 5th February, 1984. The association was represented at his funeral by Gordon Mason, 14 Anson Avenue, Lichfield, Staffordshire to whom we are all indebted. Sam was a lapsed member of the association but his death is a sad thing to record.

Former A.S.P., "Bobby" Lustig of C.I.D. Headquarters, Jerusalem and subsequently Israeli Ambassador to a number of countries died on 21st December, 1983. After independence he Hebraicised his name to Y. R. Yaron. He leaves a widow at 16 Herzog Street, Givatayim, Israel. We are indebted to John Briance for the information.

E. Summers of 4 Woodland Close, Lanivet, Nr. Bodmin, Cornwall PL30 5JF has been in contact with our General Secretary and he recalls the death of "Busty" Thom(p)son who lived near Wadebridge, three or four years ago. He was a former mounted man in Hebron 1944. Also an old comrade named Hancock (Hancox) of 1933 vintage who died as long ago as 1970. We have some dozen Thom(p)sons and at least six Hancock/Hancox's to choose from and although these deaths are grievous, we regret we are unable to be more specific.

It is with regret that we report that a newsletter sent to J. D. C. Brennan of Buki Paloh Estate, P.O.B. 107, Paloh, Johore, Malaysia has been returned marked "Deceased". After leaving Palestine, this old comrade spent the remainder of his life in Malaya/Malaysia, as far as records show. May he rest in peace.

THE LOVELL SOCIETY & BIBLE LAND SOCIETY JOINT STAMP FELLOWSHIP

The above stamp fellowship is run by Eric and Mary Peacock of:

**"White Gates",
The Street,
EAST PRESTON,
West Sussex BN16 1HZ.**

It started in 1946 to help the Lovell Home for Blind Girls which was one time at Beit Jala. It later moved to Bethlehem and is now situated in East Jerusalem.

When it started it raised £10 in 1946 but now with the help of keen philatelists and supporters it is hoped to raise £1000 each year.

The home was quite well known to some members of the force, and the Peacocks came to know several Palestine Police Officers, and they now ask: Can any ex-P.P. help? Booklets of British and Overseas stamps are made up and the profits of sales go towards the home. Of course any stamps (swaps and so forth) not wanted can be sent anyway and these will help towards the target amount.

Somewhere in Jerusalem there are some blind children who need money to keep the home going. Please help.

GREETINGS SECTION

PLATTS, P. J. (Tiny)—1/485 Marine Parade, Christchurch 7, New Zealand sends greetings from the Antipodes to The Editor and the Newsletter team.

COARSE, Brian G.—6 Gorse Close, Droitwich, Worcestershire WR9 7SG sends greetings to all, especially to John Fforde and all our members in Southern Africa; Spud Murphy and Mike Cleasby in Australia (whence his eldest son emigrated some years ago) and to all those who used to meet regularly in the Hare and Hounds in Ashford, Kent.

WILLIAMS, A. F. L. (Bill)—Cameo, Forge Way, Shortlanesend, Truro, Cornwall TR4 9DB sends greetings to "Smudger" Smith, ex-sawari, now in honourable retirement in Barcombe Cross, near Lewes, Sussex. Ken Blackburn at Blandford Forum, Dorset, Roy Reed, ex-British Records, Police Headquarters, Jerusalem now at Farnham (hope he is fully recovered) and all ex-British Records chaps wherever they may be.

BRYCE, E. J. (Ernie)—Mabua, 7 Raynes Park Road, Hampton, Victoria 3188, Australia sends greetings to: Ted Horne, John Foster, Terry Shand and George Stewart.

DOBSON, Harry—11 Lane Avenue, Rosanna, Victoria 3084, Australia sends greetings and salaams to:—Jebel Mountain with whom he served at Zichron Ya'acov and he trusts his wife's health is improving. Dick Pershaw, and P. Platt of M.P.F.S. days.

MOUQUE, F. L.—3 Stredwick Drive, Torbay, Auckland 10, New Zealand sends greetings to all and in particular to Jimmy and Madge Lindsay, Ted Horne, Sid Johnson and (very particularly) Mrs. Bella Todman, who is well remembered by wife Nina from their London days.

TRICKER, Major D. S.—2 The Carriage House, Lees Court, Sheldwich, nr. Faversham, Kent ME13 0NQ sends greetings to anyone who can remember him in Haifa and in any case best wishes to all P.P. everywhere.

HORNSEY, Mrs. Iris—8 Burdale Close, Norton, Malton, North Yorkshire YO17 9DG sends greetings and good wishes to all her many friends in Yorkshire Branch.

GREENSTREET, Charles—"Ravenscroft", Staplehay, Taunton, Somerset TA3 7EZ sends salaams to the following old friends:—Duggie Fairfoul and Andrew McKerr (South Africa), Frank Brothers (New Zealand), Bob and Pat Bathgate, Frank and Moyra Dunn and Derry and Ann Atkinson (all of whom are in Australia).

BRENNAN, J. J. (Paddy)—7 Laurona, 3rd Avenue, Newton Park, 6045, R.S.A. sends greetings and regards to all old comrades especially to Bob Stanners, Joe Foley, Norman Stewart, Jack Binsley and Steve Murphy. (See also Tracers—Ed.).

DEWSNAP, Joe—27 Edward Street, Canning Town, London E16 4DW sends greetings to all Palestine Policemen in all parts of the world.

LEE, Peter—c/o The Roydon, Musgrave Road, Berea, Durban, Natal, R.S.A. sends greetings to:— Jimmy Weekes, Bill Penwright, Sam Culverhouse, Jim Bamford, Ivan Hook, Charles Eadon-Clarke, Jack Missen, Jimmy Lindsay, Peter Hornby, Roy Fitze, Tom Irvine, Happy Simpson and of course Brigadier Rymer Jones.

HILL, Dick—24 Waima Crescent, Titirangi, Auckland 7, New Zealand sends salaams and greetings to Jim Gander and still has a snapshot of him after all these years.

STEWART, Norman—39 Walter Street, Takapuna, Auckland 9, New Zealand: also sends greetings to Jim Gander.

IGGULDEN, R. H.—65 Wall Park Road, Brixham, South Devon sends greetings to:— P. R. Gill, Bill Aldcroft, Tony (Solo) Barrett, Dennis Coggan, Jimmy Judd, Bill Laidlaw, Tony Ward and to those in Armoury Workshop 1947 onward, especially Albert (Tosh) Parent and Bill Ansell, also those in British records, especially Bill Stimpson, Alderman, Hiley, Ashworth, (Morguey) Du Val, Rev. Preston-Thomas, (Dove) Groves and Insp. A. F. L. Williams.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations seem due to James Hagarty (27 James Street, Seven Hills, Sydney, New South Wales 2147, Australia) upon his elevation to the office of President of the Guards Association of New South Wales in which he has performed loyal and faithful service already both as Vice-President and as Editor of their newsletter. Doubtless he too feels much honoured but we are all aware he will take his duties seriously and handle the limelight with consummate ease. Former P.P. and particularly former P.P./Guardsmen will feel the job is in excellent hands.

Bill and Eunice Anderson (19 Priestly Road, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 2LL) celebrated their 35th Wedding Anniversary recently and enshrined the occasion by having their marriage blessed at their local church. This was because their wedding took place in

a Register Office. The date all this actually took place was Saturday, 25th February, 1984, although the actual anniversary was on the following day. There must have been quite a gathering and the P.P. element who were present included Terry and Judith Shand, Len and Mary Sexton, George and Edna Andrews, not forgetting son Bill (Jnr.) an Associate Member and Ron and Cheryl Rose (son-in-law and daughter who are Donor Members).

SICK PARADE

MOUQUE, Mrs. Nina—3 Stredwick Drive, Torbay, Auckland 10, New Zealand has been very ill (Information dated March 1984) and was at the time in intensive care at Auckland Hospital. This lady was very well known to London Branch before she and her husband Frank went to New Zealand and all her old friends will be wishing her as rapid a recovery as is possible.

LIVINGSTONE, Bill—2 Gellatley Road, Dumfermline, Fife has had a bad time of late with undisclosed "problems" but is now on the mend (As at April 1984) and hopes to attend a Scottish Branch meeting in June. We all hope he does.

GRAY, W. N. Col., C.M.G., D.S.O., K.P.M.—The Bacchus House, Elsdon, Northumberland NE19 1AA. Our former I.G. and Vice-President of this Association suffered earlier this year. A letter from his wife, Margaret dated 5th April last suggest an improvement and the promise of recovery. All old friends of our former commander will wish him every comfort and a return to parade order as soon as possible.

HUGHES, Albert—39 Alton Road, Oxton, Birkenhead, Merseyside L45 1UY is not in the best of health, to the point of being decidedly seedy. But he has been attending hospital and has also been on parade at our monthly meetings. We all wish him better soon.

COOK, Mrs. Winifred (formerly Sister Wilson)—Bethel House, Beachwood Avenue, Barton-on-Sea, New Milton, Hampshire BH25 had a fall and suffered a broken leg whereupon she was taken into Southampton Hospital for repairs. We are all pleased to say that enquiries elicited in mid April show she is out and making a good recovery.

KIRKHAM, Alan—6 Longlakes, Williton, nr. Taunton, Somerset TA4 4SR. Last news from S. & W. Counties Branch reveal that Alan Kirkham has been admitted to Williton Hospital, Williton, Taunton, Somerset and we can but hope that his stay there will not be too long and that he will soon be back home under the heading of "Good recovery".

SWAIN, Mrs.—Friends of Mrs. Swain (widow) will be saddened to know that she is confined permanently to Painswick Ward, Horton Road Hospital, Gloucester. Her nephew Mr. D. Johnson of Danvegan, Badgeworth Lane, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire has particularly asked that this information be circulated in this issue and we thank him for keeping us informed. Anyone writing should do so through him.

GREENSTREET, Mrs. Kathleen—Ravenscroft, Staplehay, Trull, Taunton, Somerset TA3 7EZ suffered a stroke some time back and is far from well at the time of going to press. Kathleen and Charles have been together for about 39 years and she has become as widely known and loved and respected as her husband. We all pray she will recover from all this as speedily as possible.

DEWSNAP, Joe—27 Edward Street, Canning Town, London E16 4DW has been proper poorly. Blood pressure, angina and heart attack. But is now on the way up. We all hope he will be back on parade and able to enjoy to the full his holiday in Australia.

PIKE, Ken—Bab el Wad, Wellington Street, Russell, Bay of Islands, Auckland, New Zealand is still unable to attend New Zealand (Auckland) Branch meetings because of illness. Frank Brothers had been able to call on Ken and his wife Jessie earlier in the year and all old comrades will pray that Ken is very much better soon.

MILLER, John—59 Queenstown Road, Hillsborough, Auckland 6, New Zealand at time of going to press John is also on the sick list and we all hope he is on the mend by now.

WILLIAMS, Sid—Bat Yam, 1 Cedar Way, High Brixham, South Devon TQ5 0DQ has been in the wars again. Both he and informants tell us he fractured an ankle while exercising his dog. The informant (not Sid) points out he showed a lot of P.P. guts as nobody was to hand, and he had to drag and hop his way for $\frac{1}{4}$ mile where somebody telephoned a cab to get him home. We all trust his "part" is now much improved, for the sake of the poor dog.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

ATKINSON, D., Unit 2, 65 Newlands Drive, Paynesville, Victoria 3880, Australia (from New South Wales).

AYRE, S. R., 65 Auckland Road, Potters Bar, Hertfordshire EN6 3HS (from London N.2).

BAMFORD, J., Elmfield, Bridge Town Hill, Totnes, South Devon TQ9 5BH (from Blagon Manor Hotel).

BULL, A. G., 3 The Linnets, Fareham, Hampshire PO16 8QW (from Oxfordshire).

COASE, B. G., 6 Gorse Close, Droitwich, Worcestershire WR9 7SG (from Lincolnshire).

CREED, Mrs. M., 39 Elder Close, Weylea Farm, Burpham, Guildford, Surrey (from Merrow, Guildford).

HAMILTON, G., 20 Panarama Court, Whangaparava, Auckland, New Zealand (from Browns Bay).

HARWOOD, W. H., 35 Woodland View, Southwell, Nottinghamshire NG25 0AG (from Merseyside).

HASTINGS, D., 26 Glebelands, West Molesley, Surrey (from Cobham).

HILL, R. E., 3 South Farm Road, Worthing, West Sussex (from Shoreham).

KEAREY, J. F., 19 Brewers Close, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 8NR (from St. Michaels Road).

LAWRENCE, E. W., 1 Eaton Avenue, Macclesfield, Cheshire (from Prestbury).

LEE, P. J. R., The Roydons, Musgrove Road, Bera, Natal, R.S.A. (from Hampshire U.K.).

MAKINSON, W., 34 Frith Avenue, Delamere, Nr. Northwich, Cheshire (from Eddisbury Hill).

O'CONNOR, J., 2 Silver Street, Braunton, Devon EX33 2EN (from Willoway Lane, Braunton).

PHILPOTT, L., 5139 East Lee, Tucson, Arizona 85712, U.S.A. (from Bahrein).

PHILPOTT, Mrs. J., 3 Shepherds Meadow, Beaford, Winkleigh, Devon (from Barnstaple).

PHILPOTT, S., 3 Shepherds Meadow, Beaford, Winkleigh, Devon (from Barnstaple).

PRICE, D. W., Q.P.M., c/o United Club, Pier Steps, St. Peter Port, Guernsey, C.I. (from St. Martins, Guernsey).

ROUDA, A. R., 16 Dostay Street, Katamon, Jerusalem, Israel (from Australia).

SMITH, Major F., B.E.M., 1 Yewtree Gardens, Walkerville, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Tyne and Wear NE6 5IR (from Bahrein).

WHISTOM, Mrs. M., 1089 East Desert Inn Rfd 9, Las Vegas, Nevada 89109, U.S.A. (from St. Maryland Park Way, Las Vegas).

ERRATUM

MOUQUE, F. L., 3 Stredwick Drive, Torbay, Auckland 10, New Zealand (from Snells Beach) (Not No. 2 as shown in last issue).

NEW MEMBERS

- 5079 KENNEDY, N. H., ex-B/Const. 882—"Shealin", 1 Sinclair Drive, Largs, Ayrshire.
- 5080 MURPHY, G., ex-B/Sgt. 526—"Stonecroft", Wormcliffe Lane, Kingsdown, Corsham, Wiltshire SN14 9AR.
-

REJOINING MEMBERS

- 192 CAMERON, W. J., ex-B/Const. 102—Balfour Beatty Ltd., (Tanzania Project) Randolph House, Croydon, Surrey.
- 123 HALL, N. C., ex-B/Sgt. 2827—"The Spot", Sierra Street, Yerrinbool, nr. Mittagong, New South Wales 2575, Australia.
- 545 CONWAY, H., ex-B/Const. 1217—c/o Mrs. Callard, 3 Chettle Way, Blandford St. Mary, Dorset DT11 9PW (since deceased).
- 3232 SCHEER, K., ex-B/Const. 4104 (formerly A. M. Jones)—Flat 8, 1 Rectory Place, Loughborough, Leicestershire LE11 1UW.
- 1785 SAYER, D. A. F., ex-B/Sgt. 2829—2 Staplers Court, Penenden Heath, Maidstone, Kent ME14 2XB.
- 4328 NUTTALL, R. J. M., ex-B/Const. 4302—"The Bungalow, Knick Knack Lane, Brixham, Devon TQ5 9LW.
- 536 POWELL, J., ex-B/Const. 626—82 Old Ruislip Road, Northolt, Middlesex UB5 6QQ.
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NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

- A.140 WADE, D. C., (son of C. A. Wade, ex-A.S.P.)—15 Bowden Manor Close, Urchfont, Devizes, Wiltshire.
- A.141 CULLINGHAM, R., (son of W. I. Cullingham ex-B/Insp. deceased)—27 Manor Road, Lydd, Kent.

NEW DONOR MEMBERS

- 130 BENSTEAD, A. F., M.C.I.T.—"Nyumbani", 35 Westwood Lane, Welling, Kent DA16 2HG.
- 131 WOOLHEAD, Mr. and Mrs. B.—16 Maybury Close, Burgh Heath, Tadworth, Surrey.
- 132 MOUNTAIN, A.—49 Northdene, Chigwell, Essex LG7 5JS (amended entry from previous issue).
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TRACERS

BARNES, R. P.—The Red Lion, Barnacle, Shilton, nr. Coventry, Warwickshire.

FRANCIS, G.—52 Whitelaw Drive, Kirkton, Bathgate, West Lothian.

Derek Sayer of 2 Staplew Court, Penenden Heath, Maidstone, Kent ME14 2XB would like to trace "Jeep" Hillier once of Nazareth. He asks "Any News?". We can only conclude he refers to former B/Sgt. 1979 W. T. (or W. J.) Hillier later of Reading, who lapsed membership in 1954. Any detectives in that area?

Peter Lee of The Roydons, Musgrave Road, Berea, Durban, Natal, R.S.A. states:—"I know a person called Geoffrey Blake who was born in Palestine. His father who is also a G. Blake, was a well known geologist in Palestine and was killed in ambush near the Dead Sea in 1940. At the time he had six Palestine Policemen as escort. I have been asked to try and discover details of the incident for the family. Can anyone throw any light?"

J. J. (Paddy) Brennan seeks information of the whereabouts of "Chips" Mason thought once to be of London. The General Secretary has traced six Masons so far. Their initials being:—G.H.; D.P.; C.J.; D.G.; J. and K.P., four of whom are lapsees. Who and where are you "Chips".

Major Ian H. Vick, Westward, 87 Tidcombe Lane, Tiverton, Devon EX16 4EH seeks information of former British Constable Leslie Toogood, later Lieutenant Colonel in the Arab Legion. Ian served in the "Jeish" with Leslie from about 1950 to 1953 while on secondment and they became very good friends. After leaving Jordan Leslie is variously reported to have gone to Canada and/or the United States of America. Any news at all will be gratefully received by Ian at his Devon home.

Cyril Smith of 54 Revell Park Road, Plympton, Devon would like news of former British Sergeant "Mac" MacConichie, one time Drill Instructor at the Depot of 1931 vintage and who came from Hawick, later serving in Haifa, Nazareth and Tiberias areas.

AN APOLOGIA

Our General Secretary is not often caught napping but on this occasion it would appear that he is a little embarrassed. In last quarter's Tracer Column, we made an appeal for the present whereabouts of Mrs. Nancy Crabtree. This was done because someone wrote to the "G.S." asking for news. In the process of time, we had a nice letter from N. E. (Neville) Naunton, 26 Stoney Lane, Barrow, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk to inform us that Mrs. Crabtree now resided at 35 Hollywood Close, Great Barrow, nr. Chelmsford, Essex CM2 8DU, although at the time of writing she was on holiday in South Africa. This is confirmed, Neville went on to say, by her son Jonathan Crabtree of 3 Walsingham Road, Bury St. Edmunds shortly to move to Ipswich. In the process of time Mr. John Crabtree telephoned to enquire who it was seeking his mother's new address as the lady was by now very curious. It is at this point that this editor, who takes instructions on a matter of this kind and our Gen. Sec., have reached the point of "reddened faces". The original letter of enquiry is AWL and has got itself filed away to the point of effectively disappearing altogether. Thus we now appeal. Would the person who asked us to try and trace Mrs. Crabtree now step forward. Quite a lot of people want to know who you are. Meanwhile we thank Neville and Mr. Crabtree (Junior) for their efforts.

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August 25th	Scottish Branch DINNER/DANCE	Station Hotel Perth
September 8th	South-Eastern Counties Branch DINNER/DANCE	Beach Hotel Littlehampton
October 6th	Association A.G.M. (3.15 p.m.)	The Cardinal Westminster, S.W.1
October 6th	Association Reunion DINNER (6.30 p.m.)	Westminster Cathedral Conference Centre
October 7th	CENOTAPH PARADE AND SERVICE (10.30 a.m.)	Whitehall, S.W.1
October 27th	South Midlands Branch DINNER/DANCE	Blunsdon House Hotel Nr. Swindon
December 1st	Southern & Western Counties Branch DINNER/DANCE	Courtlands Hotel Bournemouth